

**FREE MAGAZINE FOR EVERY READER**  
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**BEST FOR JOBS**

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DOUBLE SECTION

## Crusade for discipline and fitness Major to call on teenagers to join cadets

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

EVERY schoolchild could be given the opportunity to join the military cadets under government plans to instil a greater sense of self-discipline, loyalty and fitness in Britain's teenagers.

Under the proposals backed by John Major and three senior Cabinet colleagues, millions of pounds would be spent on setting up new centres in state schools and inner city areas, on equipping them and on recruiting former Service personnel to train the cadets.

The move could mean more children receiving firearms training, but ministers appear ready to risk the public opposition that seems inevitable after the Dunblane tragedy.

The plans to extend the 130,000-strong cadets are being proposed by Michael Portillo, with enthusiastic backing from Michael Howard, Gillian Shephard and Mr Major—even though both Mr Portillo and Mr Major avoided the system as schoolboys.

They are now keen to attract more disadvantaged children to the Services' cadet wings and to the Combined Cadet Force, which operates in 198 private schools and 45 state schools. It is on the latter that the new resources will be concentrated.

Under the proposals—which could be announced next month—many more 13 to 22-year-olds would learn such skills as abseiling, cross-country running, flying, rock climbing and orienteering, as well as being taught how to march, first-aid and interview techniques.

They would have also the opportunity to go on camps in Britain, Germany and Canada.

The Government believes that the cadets system is an ideal way of teaching children self-discipline, loyalty, etiquette and a sense of responsibility. Ministers also hope that the scheme will raise fitness levels, which are at an all-time low.

Mr Portillo said yesterday: "The cadets are a good thing because they help young people to develop self-discipline, self-motivation and qualities of leadership. They make young people learn play-ers, give them self-esteem and satisfy their love of adventure. For some young people they point the way to a career in the military for others they simply lead to more knowledge about themselves."



"Your maths is good, but we're very disappointed with your hand-to-hand combat."

Mr Portillo hopes that expansion of the cadets would also alleviate the Services' recruitment problems. Cadets make up nearly 35 per cent of recruits and tend to be the fittest and most able. One minister said: "Many of the young applying to the Armed Forces these days are too fat and unfit to pass the basic tests. Some can't even cope with wearing boots because they have been in trainers all their lives."

The main controversy in drawing up the plans has focused on firearms, which traditionally feature in cadet training. Dunblane has been a complicating factor and ministers are discussing ways of teaching children the arts of self-defence and orienteering instead. But Mr Portillo yesterday defended the cadets' use of firearms saying: "The Armed Forces save lives. They don't lose them and the young people will learn discipline and hard work when they join as well."

The anti-firearms lobby is furious. Jill Marshall-Andrews, chair of the gun control network, said: "We are dismayed at the prospect of more and more children and young people being trained in firearms. In our view the age limit for use of guns should be 18 and it is quite inappropriate to introduce anyone younger to dangerous weapons."

The Ministry of Defence spends £68 million a year on the cadets, which are divided into four areas: The Army, Navy and Air Force cadets are run independently of schools



As we were: Cadets off to camp in 1954. It was good practice for National Service

in more than 3,000 towns and villages and any child can apply. The Combined Cadet Force is more exclusive.

More than £1.2 million of National Lottery money has been given to help the cadets and Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, is thought to be very keen on the organisation. The Education and Home Secretaries are also enthusiastic—last year the Home Office introduced a

small grants scheme for cadet forces to enrol children who might be at risk of offending.

Sir Robert Balchin, head of the Grant Maintained Schools Foundation, praised the plans. "Young people both boys and girls get a great deal of excitement, adventure and discipline. To see more of them in comprehensive schools would be a very good thing. It would instil a sense of citizenship as well."

Brian Mackenzie, from the Police Superintendents Association, gave a cautious welcome to the proposals. "It is a very attractive idea provided there is sufficient funding. Young boys and girls will get a sense of belonging. But in the present climate of opinion, they will have to exercise extreme caution before teaching these kids to use rifles."

Out of uniform, page 4

## Taxpayers to fund £60m replacement for Britannia

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND JAMES LANDALE

THE Royal Yacht Britannia is to be replaced at taxpayers' expense and the new ship will be built at a British shipyard, Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said yesterday.

The statement, which took the Commons by surprise, ended 2½ years of deliberations in Whitehall over whether to replace the royal yacht with private sector funding or to scrap plans to build a modern ship for the Royal Family.

After a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday evening, chaired by John Major, it was decided to go for neither option and, instead, to fund a new yacht from the contingency reserves, with the Ministry of Defence meeting the running costs which will include a Royal Navy crew and a Royal Marines band.

Mr Portillo said the Government had received many interesting proposals for private funding of the £60 million capital cost, but he added: "We believe that a new royal yacht, a symbol of the nation's pride, should not be funded by sponsorship or subscription, but by the nation."

Mr Portillo said the decision was taken "because we believe that a royal yacht is an important national asset and projects a prestigious image of Britain which adds powerfully to official occasions and to British economic interests."

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will be consulted on the design and will contribute to the furnishings and fittings of the state rooms and royal apartments, drawing some items from Britannia.

Labour criticised ministers for failing to consult them on the decision, as is usual in royal matters, and refused to guarantee that it would pay

for the project in government. Other means of finance could be sought, particularly from the private sector.

It accused the Tories of "playing politics with the Queen" by making the surprise announcement to boost their chances at the general election.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, let it be known that although Labour supported the idea of a replacement yacht, the party would not be tricked into giving the Government a "blank cheque" for such an important public spending decision.

David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, said: "While we see the benefits to the country in the royal yacht, and in the best world we would like the project to go ahead, we are not satisfied that this is the most cost-effective way of providing for it." Labour sources also accused Mr Portillo of making the announcement to boost his own chances in a future Tory leadership battle.

The sources pointed out that John Redwood, a potential rival to Mr Portillo for the leadership, had made a replacement of the royal yacht a key part of his manifesto in his leadership challenge against Mr Major in June 1995.

Admiral Sir Jock Slater, the First Sea Lord, who as a boy watched the launching of Britannia from John Brown shipyard on the Clyde, expressed his delight and pride last night that there would be a new Britannia flying the White Ensign and crewed by the Royal Navy.

The Defence Ministry will begin a year's feasibility study

Continued on page 3, col 8  
Leading article, page 19

### Family row puts publishers at risk

A power struggle between a father and son is threatening to tear apart the company which publishes *Whitaker's Almanack* and *The Bookshelf*. David Whitaker, chairman of J. Whitaker & Sons, said that his son, Martin, was attempting to seize control of the company, which has been in the family for six generations. Page 3

### Germany is to cull 5,000 cattle

Germany is to slaughter more than 5,000 cattle originating from Britain and Switzerland in an attempt to dampen fears that "mad cow" disease was now endemic to the country. The decision follows confirmation that a German-born Galloway cow had from BSE. Page 13

## Gulf War chief's SAS ban confirmed by the Army

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

GENERAL Sir Peter de la Billière was told formally by a senior Army officer yesterday that he will no longer be welcome at SAS premises for regional functions.

The step was taken after a day of confusion in which he dismissed reports that he was included in the Ministry of Defence ban on former SAS members who had written books since the Gulf War.

When he saw yesterday's newspaper reports he telephoned the MoD and demanded to know what was going on. His outburst caused a flurry of embarrassed activity at the ministry, resulting in a call to his office at Robert

Flemings' merchant bank in the City of London, during which it was explained why he had to be excluded from all special forces' premises.

Last night General de la Billière acknowledged that he was on the exclusion list because he had written two books since the war, although both were sent to the MoD and SAS for approval.

He said: "This afternoon, for the first time, I have been informed by the Ministry of Defence that all authors of books mentioning special forces and written since the Gulf War, whether cleared by the MoD or not, are only welcome on special forces' property by invitation."

Army sources said the ban meant the general would not receive invitations to functions at special forces' premises.

Sir Colin Shephard, Conservative MP for Hereford and a close friend of the retired general, said: "I'm very sad about this turn of events. Nothing has ever done or would do would ever damage the regiment."

But Tom King, former Defence Secretary, said there was a real problem over the number of books published.

High price, page 5  
Photograph, page 22  
Chasing missiles, page 35

## Rifkind takes vision of EU to the people

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

MALCOLM RIFKIND will today seek to take the debate about the future of the European Union to the people of Europe and over the heads of the politicians.

Claiming that the British vision of a non-federalist flexible Europe is in tune with the aspirations of the people across the Continent, the Foreign Secretary is planning a series of speeches in European capitals to put the Government's case. He will argue that the political classes have been trying to run ahead of the public in seeking an integrated Europe.

Mr Rifkind writes in *The Times* today that the debate has been conducted between

politicians with occasional contributions from academics, diplomats and journalists. "In the new modern Europe the debate must no longer be reserved to the political class but involve the whole adult population."

In an address tonight to the French Chamber of Commerce in London, and later at meetings in Sweden, Denmark, France and Germany, Mr Rifkind will say that the British idea of individual nation states working together with the European institution in a co-operative and flexible way has widespread public backing.

Peoples must speak, page 18

## Packer plays his cards right with \$22m casino win

FROM QUENTIN LEYS  
IN NEW YORK

EVEN the most wizened card sharks in Las Vegas are saluting the Australian tycoon Kerry Packer after he had a multimillion-dollar winning streak at the city's gaming tables.

Mr Packer was yesterday credited with contributing to a 19 per cent drop in quarterly profits at the Hilton Hotel Corporation. He and 10 Asian acquaintances walked away with "exceptional" wins from the Hilton casino in Las Vegas over Christmas.

They did it by playing \$250,000 baccarat hands that left croupiers "twitching with anxiety" as the house

repeatedly lost. Hilton lost some \$22 million (£13.25 million) at its baccarat tables at the turn of the year, and most was said to have gone to the Packer party.

In a sober statement the company yesterday noted: "Fourth quarter earnings from operations were adversely affected by abnormally low baccarat drop and win percentage at the Las Vegas Hilton, resulting in a negative impact of approximately 11 cents per share."

After draining the Hilton, Mr Packer moved on to the Mirage casino next to Caesar's Palace and promptly stripped its tables of another \$2 million.

Mr Packer, who owns a share of casinos in Sydney and Melbourne, is a celebrated gambler and it would not be

remarkable if he lost as much money in the coming months as he has just won. In 1992, he won \$3.5 million at the Las Vegas Hilton, but blew \$6 million there a year later—and left croupiers a \$160,000 tip. His record win before now was \$6.75 million, at the opening of the MGM Grand hotel in Las Vegas in 1994.

In the French game of baccarat, two or more players and the banker draw two or three cards, and aim for a count of nine or 10. Any number of other players then bet on someone to beat the banker. Up to three packs of cards can be used, allowing for big and often competitive tables. The game has two varieties, chemin de fer and baccarat banque, which allows numerous players to bet against the bank.



Packer: huge win hit profits at Hilton

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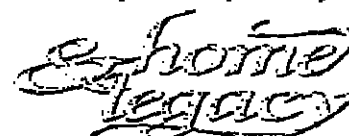
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# A blessing for the Tory ship of state, and for all who sail in her

"ALTHOUGH she is beautifully maintained..." Two Tory dames, beautifully maintained and decked out for the occasion, raised their heads in pride as the Defence Secretary spoke.

... she is old. Both dames, one of whom is standing down at the next election, registered shock.

"She is increasingly difficult to maintain." The dames looked indignant.

"She will not put to sea again." The dames looked disconsolate.

"We need to guarantee she

will be kept in excellent condition." The dames looked reassured.

"If that cannot be assured, it would be better to see her scrapped than to see her deteriorate." The dames looked alarmed.

Michael Portillo looked anything but. He couldn't believe his luck. Rolling every syllable of his statement round in his mouth like an especially delectable piece of buttered toast, and speaking very slowly with vast pauses, he never quite allowed to cross his face that schoolboy

smirk which says to the rival gang: "You know and I know my gang cheated - but you'll never prove it."

The Tory benches were like pigs in clover. "Hear, hear!" they shouted, at every reference to Her Majesty's needs and Her Majesty's dignity: "Hya, hya, hya!"

Poor Dr David Clark, Labour's principal defence spokesman, panicked. He complained that this was electioneering, he should have been consulted, and it wasn't fair. But everybody knew that. All's fair in general elections.

**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

Dr Clark just sounded plaintive.

Next he lurched into a complaint that private capital should have been considered. This caused one of the longest bouts of uncontrolled mirth the chamber has seen since Mark Lennox-Boyd (as Foreign Office Minister) tried to explain how the contents of the Canadian diplomatic bags

had become lost in the Wandsworth Prison laundry. What? A Labour spokesman calling for the private sector?

Nicholas Soames, a defence minister, almost choked with mirth and turned purple as the rest of the front bench doubled up in giggles. Portillo kept his cool. His lip was curled, his quiff was perfect. He joined the Liberal Demo-

crats' Menzies Campbell (File NE) in simulated horror that the hapless Clark could not back his plan.

And Portillo's luck held. Labour's Alan Williams (Cardiff) offered a rant at royal extravagance which, from Labour, would not have raised an eyebrow ten years ago. Yesterday it raised the roof.

Hugging himself with pleasure, wrapping himself in patriotism, and stopping bucketfuls of loyal adjectives over the absent head of Her Majesty, Portillo stopped just

short of questioning Williams's patriotism.

Next, Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolton) went into orbit. Stop gagging republicans... sick kids on hospital trolleys... pensioners robbed blind... no pencils in schools... four million unemployed...

In vain did Kate Hock (Lab, Vauxhall) and Peter Shore (Lab, Bethnal Green & Stepney) praise the plans. Portillo painted them as lonely monarchists among a republican rabble.

Then came a fleet of little Tory rowing boats, sporting their Union flags and escorting the new yacht. John Wilkinson (C, Ruislip) wanted a helicopter deck.

"And a casino," yelled Skinner. Soames began to choke again. Portillo wanted a hand. Soames looked close to asphyxiation. Robert Key (C, Salisbury) wondered what the new yacht should be named.

"HMS Camille!" yelled Skinner's whole heckler's bench in unison. I regret to report that, among the Tory front bench, only Mr Portillo kept a straight face.

## Lord Chancellor rejects register of Masonic judges

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor last night ruled out setting up a register of judges who are Freemasons, but he told MPs he might canvass senior ones over whether they would voluntarily declare their membership.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern told the Home Affairs Committee of MPs, which is inquiring into Freemasonry, he would consider asking the 193 judges in the House of Lords, Court of Appeal and High Court if they would help the committee by stating if they were Freemasons or not.

"I think what I would do would be to invite the judiciary to say if they wish to say whether they are Freemasons," he said.

He was not prepared, he said, to ask them the question directly. "I don't think I have the proper authority to do that." He added that such a question was not pertinent to the positions judges held.

His comments came after the committee chairman, Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, said that if progress were to be made with the MPs' inquiry into Freemasonry in the police and judiciary, then "the bottom line" would be to find out the numbers of Freemason judges. Sir Ivan said: "If we ask the questions and we get no answers, the situation is even worse." The press and public would think that Free-

masons had "silenced everyone, including the Lord Chancellor."

Some of the groups under scrutiny "have to throw a bit more light to persuade the press and public that the committee was not wasting its time," he said. The current Masonic Year Book lists some 30 judges who are high-ranking masons. But judges who are not senior Freemasons are not listed.

The Association of Women Barristers have recommended that judges accepting judicial appointment should declare if they were Freemasons; and senior police officers have said there should be a register of police Freemasons.

Lord Mackay said that in his view, Freemasonry pledges to help each other were not incompatible with the judicial oath to "do right to all manner of people... without fear or favour, affection or illwill." If judges found they had any sort of acquaintance or relationship with any one in a case, they would disqualify themselves, he said. That applied to Freemasonry as much as anything else.

He said he was prepared to investigate any specific allegations that Freemasonry had caused harm to the administration of justice but knew of none. "I know of no evidence of any substantial kind to suggest that Freemasonry has

any adverse effect - indeed any effect at all - in relation to the conduct of the judiciary, whether magistrates or professional judges."

Lord Mackay also rejected the suggestion that judges taking up appointment should be asked if they were Freemasons. In written evidence he said there was currently no such requirement "just as there is no requirement to declare membership of, for example, a yacht club, a particular religious organization or any other society or association."

However, he said that people applying to be a magistrate in England and Wales were asked to disclose their interests, including membership of any organization or club.

"This gives the candidate an opportunity, if not an obligation, to disclose that he is a Freemason and for the advisory committee to pursue the matter further in questioning should it be thought necessary to do so." This might be relevant in a particular locality, to ensure there was no preponderance of magistrates from one profession, club, family or political party.

He said that a check in his department showed six letters in three months from the public alleging the influence of Freemasonry in the criminal justice system.

## City towers opposed as 'macho fashion'

BY MARCUS BINNEY

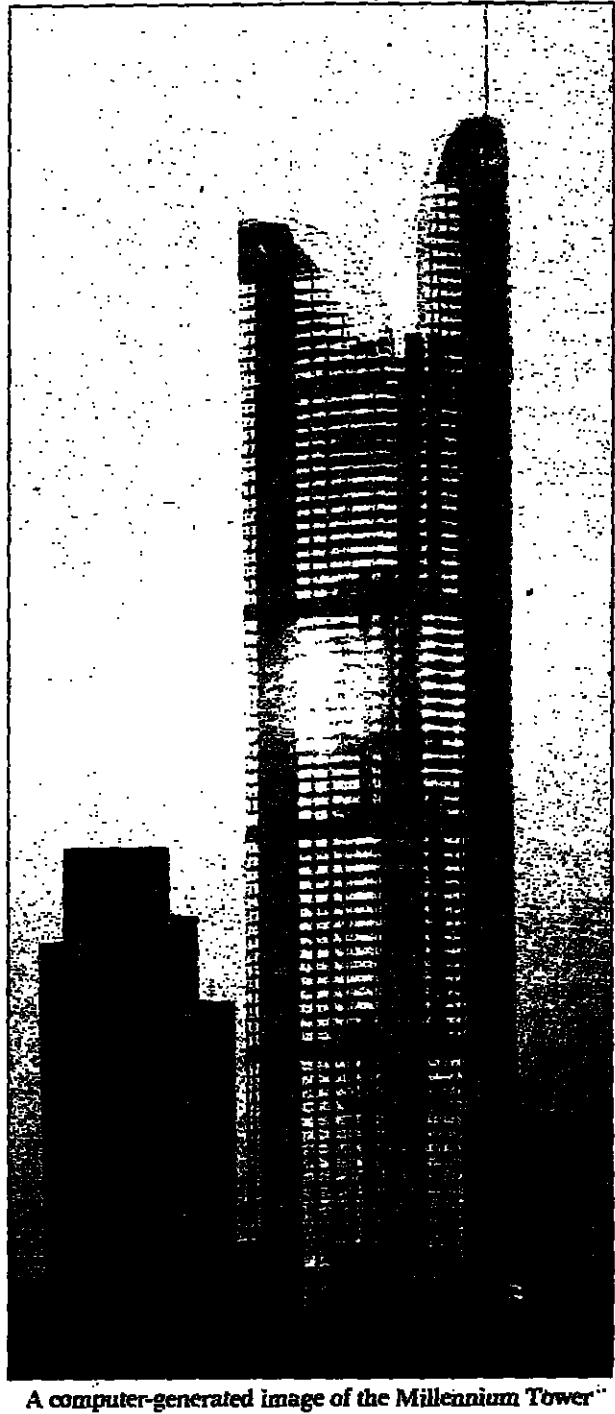
ENGLISH HERITAGE has decided to oppose Sir Norman Foster's plans to build a 1,265ft Millennium Tower in the City because it would overwhelm London, particularly St Paul's Cathedral.

The commissioners of English Heritage consider that the tower, which would be the tallest building in Europe, twice as high as the NatWest tower, would damage not only the heart of the City but London as a whole. English Heritage will also oppose plans by another leading architect, Santiago Calatrava, to remodel the Britannic Tower, as damaging to the London skyline.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, said: "The Foster Tower is a fine building in the wrong place. London does not need a virility symbol to prove it's a world financial centre. If we say 'yes' to either of these towers, others will erupt all over the place. It's a macho fashion."

"We have identified 24 sites in the City suitable for new buildings. We are not blocking the economic growth of the Square Mile; the Millennium Tower would only add 2 to 3 per cent to office space."

"It is likely that the Department of the Environment will call a public inquiry on the tower, but if they do not, and if the City Corporation shows any signs of approving the tower, we will use our powers to tell the corporation not to issue planning permission."



A computer-generated image of the Millennium Tower

## Councils to get powers to cut car pollution

By Nick Nuttall, environment correspondent

COUNCILS trying to crack down on rising congestion and air pollution are expected to get new powers to cut the numbers of cars and lorries on the roads, it was disclosed yesterday.

The Department of Transport indicated that it was backing a Private Member's Bill which will require local authorities to draft targets for cutting the volume of transport on city streets. Councils who draft transport reduction plans will get extra cash from government to fund schemes such as cycle routes, pedestrianisation and public transport projects.

The Bill, which gets its second reading in the Commons tomorrow already has cross-party support from more than 220 MPs, 129 local authorities and 500 local groups and associations.

Yesterday the department said the Bill, introduced by the Liberal Democrat member for Bath, Don Foster, was now in line with Government policy.

The original bill had demanded national traffic reductions of 5 per cent by 2005 and 10 per cent by 2010.

But the bill has been reworded. It now requires local traffic reduction targets. Councils are also not tied to specific targets but ones they, and the Transport Secretary, deem practical.

"The bill is swinging to a government view that local authorities should set local targets," the transport department spokesman said.

Roger Hignam of Friends of the Earth, who along with the Green Party and Plaid Cymru, are promoting the bill, said yesterday: "We have had long negotiations with the Department of Transport to see what they will accept. Ministers now say they are keen."

The beauty of having local rather than national targets helps overcome the political difficulties of rural councils.

Most experts accept that, in the short term, trying to cut car use in the countryside will be almost impossible given the poor public transport infrastructure and the large distances many have to travel to shop, commute and do go to school.

The bill also fits neatly with the Department of the Environment's National Air Quality Strategy. Councils are being asked to draw up plans to curb air pollution by 2005 and then again by 2010 to meet national and European health limits.

There are currently around 20.5 million cars on the road. By 2005 the number may have risen by up to 40 per cent and by 2010 by 60 per cent, according to government forecasts.

Mr Foster, the member for Bath, said at a rally in London yesterday: "The country is fed up with too much traffic."

Anti-roads protesters were dragged from their bikes by police yesterday as 2,000 demonstrators lobbied Parliament in favour of the Bill. There were no arrests.

## Major may suspend Ulster talks

John Major is preparing to suspend the Northern Ireland talks within weeks because of the deadlock over giving up weapons. He concedes there is little prospect of progress before the general election and believes that heightened political tensions could wreck the process altogether.

Ministers are preparing to bring the talks to a close next month to reduce tension. Mr Major said yesterday that the talks had reached "a sticky patch" and indicated that he planned a new talks strategy after the election.

He said: "I think I can see some ways we can proceed - I know one way - but I am not going to reveal them."

**Drug plot charge**

A man was charged at Belmarsh Magistrates' Court in London with laundering £330,000 from drugs smuggled into Ireland from Holland. John Gilligan, 44, of Blanchardstown, Dublin, denies concealing the proceeds of drug trafficking and helping someone else retain them.

**Tickets too costly**

Thousands of passengers are being overcharged by private rail companies using antiquated computer systems that issue wrongly-priced tickets, the government-appointed watchdog said yesterday. John Swift, the Rail Regulator, has ordered a survey to assess the size of the problem.

**Grobelaar plea**

Zimbabwe has asked for Bruce Grobelaar, the goalkeeper on trial in Winchester on match-fixing charges, to play for its national team on Sunday. The judge has given his permission for Grobelaar to fly to Harare for the African Nations Cup qualifying tie against Ghana.

**Nestlé threat**

The food company Nestlé is threatening to sue the owner of a new cyber cafe called Netscape, Paul Alexander, of Cheltenham, who remortgaged his home to raise £30,000 for the business, said he was "flabbergasted" and would fight the firm in court rather than change the name.

**McAliskey ruling**

Two High Court judges ruled that the German Government is entitled to seek the extradition of Roisin McAliskey, 25, the imprisoned pregnant daughter of the former nationalist MP Bernadette McAliskey. She is wanted in connection with a mortar attack on a British Army base.

**Second funeral**

Flight Sergeant Denis Noble, whose Hurricane was excavated at Hove 56 years after the Battle of Britain, was given a hero's burial in Retford, Nottinghamshire. The flag-draped coffin was lowered on to the top of a wartime coffin, now believed to hold only part of his body.

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## MP says Asians plan to oust him

BY PAUL WILKINSON

TONY BLAIR was asked to intervene in the Bradford West constituency last night after Max Madden, MP, accused Pakistani rivals of forming a pact to ensure an Asian candidate is selected.

Mr Madden, who has held the west Yorkshire seat for Labour since 1983, claims a pact would breach the party's code of conduct. "The National Executive Committee must address it as a matter of urgency and take effective action."

Last night the four Pakistani candidates accused of forming a "United Front" denied any suggestion of an alliance.

The Bradford West selection process is already being monitored closely by the NEC and regional officials after the discovery of widespread membership irregularities in predominantly Asian wards. The NEC will choose the final shortlist instead of the constituency party.

Mr Madden, 55, said that he was concerned after a report disclosing the pact appeared in an Urdu language newspaper circulating in the Asian community. It named the four candidates involved as Mohammed Ajeeb, a former Lord Mayor of Bradford; Rangzeb, a Bradford councillor; Mohammed Taj, a trade unionist; and Nazir Ahmed, a Labour councillor in south Yorkshire.

Mr Madden faxed copies of a translation to the Labour leader. He believes the pact sought to persuade Muslim party members to vote only for Muslims, and said it could be taken as incitement to religious and racial hatred.

The newspaper report claimed the four candidates met to take an oath that after the shortlisting they and their supporters would back the Pakistani who had the best chance of selection.

Muhammad Ajeeb denied that there was a pact. He said: "There was not a pre-planned meeting. We happened to be together. There were other people in the room. The real proof against it is that Max Madden himself has been shortlisted in University ward, where 100 per cent of the people who decided about the shortlist were Muslim."

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Mr Madden, 55, said that he was concerned after a report disclosing the pact appeared in an Urdu language newspaper circulating in the Asian community. It named the four candidates involved as Mohammed Ajeeb, a former Lord Mayor of Bradford; Rangzeb, a Bradford councillor; Mohammed Taj, a trade unionist; and Nazir Ahmed, a Labour councillor in south Yorkshire.

Mr Madden faxed copies of a translation to the Labour leader. He believes the pact sought to persuade Muslim party members to vote only for Muslims, and said it could be taken as incitement to religious and racial hatred.

The newspaper report claimed the four candidates met to take an oath that after the shortlisting they and their supporters would back the Pakistani who had the best chance of selection.

Muhammad Ajeeb denied that there was a pact. He said: "There was not a pre-planned meeting. We happened to be together. There were other people in the room. The real proof against it is that Max Madden himself has been shortlisted in University ward, where 100 per cent of the people who decided about the shortlist were Muslim."

## New powers for teachers

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

TEACHERS are to be given clear powers to use physical force to restrain pupils in playground fights or classroom disruption to protect the safety and education of others.

The planned amendment to the Education Bill follows complaints by teachers that they were risking their careers whenever they intervened. Unions said they were defending hundreds of members from unjustified allegations.

The law already allows teachers to use "reasonable force" in such situations, but Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, is keen to clarify this. Labour supports the measures, which include legally-enforceable detentions and longer exclusions.

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The Queen may be open to offers on carpets, but will keep stateroom fittings and a solid gold camel

# Large yacht for sale; one very careful owner

BY ALAN HAMILTON

WHOMEVER buys HM Retired Yacht *Britannia*, they are likely to be disappointed at the lack of royal artefacts left on board. Her present owners are certain to strip her clean of all they hold dear.

Yesterday's announcement that the Queen is to have a new boat made clear that she will contribute to the nation's and fittings of its staterooms. That means the new vessel will contain much of the old *Britannia*'s state apartments were designed by Sir Hugh Casson and are light, airy and charming, in sharp contrast to the heavy solemnity of the Queen's land-based palaces. The silver-grey carpet adds to the illusion of a country house in the Home Counties. As in so many everyday house purchases, the carpet will be a matter for negotiation.

Pole. It is encased in glass and hanging in the drawing room. Nor will the Queen leave behind a solidwood writing desk, belonging to Queen Victoria, which graced a previous royal yacht, the *Victoria and Albert*. She will also take with her a clever, gimballed table, again from an earlier yacht, designed by Prince Albert to keep cocktails upright even in the roughest seas.

The walls of the staterooms are hung with paintings of the Queen's and the Duke of Edinburgh's personal choice, including several by Edward Seago. They too will go. There will not be much left in the state dining room. The mahogany table which accommodates 56 guests at state banquets will undoubtedly go to the new boat, as will the gold and white Minton china bearing the royal cipher, and the accompanying set of Royal Brierley crystal.

Were the Queen to leave behind her principal table centrepiece, the ruler of Dubai would be most offended; he gave the decoration to her during her Gulf tour in 1979. Although not to everyone's taste, it is much remarked upon by guests: a solid gold camel standing under a solid gold palm tree, the whole ensemble standing a good 9m high.

A new owner of *Britannia* may not get the antiques, but will certainly be buying history. *Victoria and Albert* was pensioned off in the late 1930s and talk of a replacement was interrupted by the war. Atlee's Labour Government eventually got the proposal through a somewhat hostile Parliament in 1950, on the grounds that the vessel could be converted instantly into a hospital ship.

Items certain to be transferred to a new vessel include the White Ensign flown from Captain Scott's sledge on his ill-fated journey to the South

Were the Queen to leave behind her principal table centrepiece, the ruler of Dubai

Since then, the yacht has covered more than a million miles at sea, has hosted the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on innumerable royal tours abroad and has provided honeymoon quarters for several royal couples who are no longer together.



Ruling the waves: *Britannia* with flags flying

Honeymoon duty required taking double beds on board for the occasion; all *Britannia*'s beds, from the Queen's to humblest able seaman's, are single, and the more distinguished of them, in the royal bedrooms on the shelter deck immediately above the staterooms, are also certain to be removed to the new vessel.

*Britannia* was launched from John Brown's yard at



Immaculate interior: meals on board can be eaten in the royal dining room, above, or off the engine-room floor

Clydebank, birthplace of the Cunard Queens, in 1953 at a cost of £2.1 million. She never made it to a hospital ship. During the Falklands campaign, she was in the wrong part of the world and, by the time of the Gulf War, it was deemed too expensive to fit helicopter decks and other essential equipment to a vessel already 37 years old.

Her one moment of active service glory came when sailing past Aden on her way to royal business in Australia. She picked up refugees from an outbreak of civil strife in

that South Arabian state and ferried them to the relative safety of Mogadishu in Somalia.

For most of her life, *Britannia*'s greatest embarrassment was to run on the wrong kind of fuel. When the rest of the Navy was drinking diesel, the royal yacht's engines burned heavy fuel oil, installed at birth because fuel-oil engines turned more slowly and were less likely to awaken slumbering royal presences on the upper decks.

She was eventually converted to diesel in 1984 during a refit costing £6 million. *Britannia* has long been the most expensive single item in the royal travel budget. Last year, with no major refit, she still cost £10 million to run, a figure which includes regular maintenance including some refurbishment for its current Far East tour, fuel and crew wages.

Although glad to be relieved of such an expense, the Government will nonetheless expect any future buyer or operator to maintain decent standards. An obvious saving is the wage bill: a vessel of

## Britannia

Continued from page 1 after which it will put the design and construction out to tender. The new yacht is expected to be ready by the year 2002 in time for the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations. With a smaller crew than the present ship's complement of 250, the running costs are likely to be about half the present cost of £10 million a year.

Although Mr Portillo said that the new yacht should have a helipad, she will not have a military role. *Britannia* used to have a contingency secondary role as a hospital ship in time of war.

Sir Jock said that the new yacht would be a conventional "high-tech" ship with a modern propulsion system. A proposal to replace *Britannia* with a sail training ship has been rejected.

Mr Portillo's announcement came after the *Britannia* sailed on Monday on her last overseas voyage, to the Mediterranean, the Gulf and Far East. She will arrive in Hong Kong in June to take part in the handover of the British colony to the Chinese on June 30.

Mr Portillo said that after returning from Hong Kong, *Britannia* would be used until the end of the year, "probably within British territorial waters".

He told MPs: "After 1997 and until the new ship enters service in 2001 or 2002, there will be a gap. There will be no royal yacht on the seas. This will not be a long gap, as there was between the end of the *Victoria and Albert* and the commissioning of *Britannia*, which I think was a gap of about 14 or 15 years."

Since being commissioned 43 years ago, the Royal Yacht *Britannia* has travelled more than a million miles and undertaken nearly 700 royal visits overseas.

Leading article, page 19

# Whitaker's Almanack torn by family dispute

BY JASON COWLEY AND DAMIAN WHITWORTH

ONE of the last great independent publishing houses in Britain was being torn apart last night by a bitter power struggle between father and son.

David Whitaker, chairman of J. Whitaker & Sons, which has published *The Bookeller* since 1858 and *Whitaker's Almanack* since 1868, said that his son was attempting to seize control of the company, which had been in the family for six generations.

Mr Whitaker, 65, a former editor of *The Bookeller*, said that Martin Whitaker, a board director, was behind a coup to oust him and his sister, Sally, the managing director.

David Whitaker said that the company, which has a turnover of £10 million, had been losing profitability. Whitaker's recent launch of Booktrack, the electronic sales data monitoring service that provides the bestseller lists for *The Times* and other newspapers, had drained resources.

"The profitability of the company is down, but overheads are going up. The board has been discussing the succession of my sister, Sally, who has not had a successful run as managing director, is deeply stressed and wishes to retire. But what is happening is not acceptable. My son, Martin, has personal problems and wishes to take over as soon as possible and to prepare the company for sale."

Mr Whitaker, who confirmed that his son had recently separated from his wife, added: "Other directors most closely involved with what is

happening — Paul Ponsford and Jonathan Howell — are newcomers to the company and the trade it serves, have seen opportunity at the top, and Martin's ambitions would benefit them."

"Mr Whitaker said that he, his sister and Robin Baum, Miss Whitaker's brother-in-law and a major shareholder, did not want the company to be sold. "During the next few years, were the company to be sold, it would be at a discount to the price it would have fetched when I left, or will command again when it is being run properly."

Asked why the directors wished to remove him and his sister from the board, Mr Whitaker said: "The company has lost its innovative edge, is behind with its development, is failing to contain its overheads, has lost its position in the trade and failed to fight off its competition. ... I have grown heartily sick of much of

the company in recent years: its loss of focus, its loss of direction, its poor grasp of strategy."

Martin Whitaker was not available to comment last night. A meeting of the board is expected this week.

The Whitaker family has been one of the great paternalists of the book world and was instrumental in setting up almost a century ago the Book Agreement, the book price fixing agreement that collapsed in 1955.

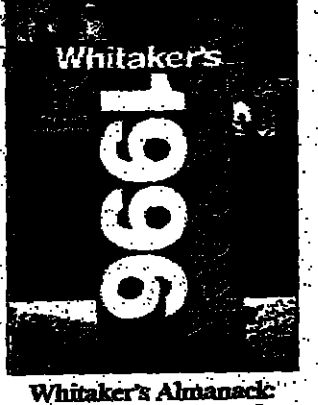
David Whitaker is the great-grandson of the company's founder, Joseph Whitaker. The idea for the almanack grew out of a column in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, which he edited: called the *Correspondence of Sylvanus Urban*, it consisted of answers to readers' queries.

More than 100 years later, *Whitaker's Almanack* calls itself "the world in a volume". Packed with charts and tables, it has become as much an institution as the establishment it monitors.

The story is told that, in early 1966, Harold Wilson was considering when to call the general election. "Bring me *Whitaker's Almanack*," he ordered. "I want to look at the golden numbers."

He explained that he was referring to the figures on which the date of Easter was calculated. Hands fumbled for pocket diaries. "No, you won't find it in there," said the Prime Minister. "What I want is the date of Easter 1970."

Books, pages 34, 35



Whitaker's Almanack: family power struggle

# It's good to talk, but only if it's polite conversation

BY NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

BOORISH men die young. After years of monopolising conversations, interrupting and competing for attention, they talk themselves into an early grave, according to an American study.

"We theorise that socially dominant men are more chronically aroused and stressed," said Michael Babyak, of Duke University Medical Centre in Durham, North Carolina, who spent 22 years studying 750 white, middle-class men. Social dominance is not the same as being gregarious, he said, nor is it hostility, but attention-seeking to get ahead at the expense of others.

The research, carried out

when Dr Babyak was at the University of Kansas and in co-operation with researchers from the University of California, involved assessing each man on 12 speech and behaviour characteristics, including verbal competitiveness, loudness and self-aggrandisement. The men's health and survival over the duration of the study was then monitored.

After taking into account health risks such as smoking, blood pressure and cholesterol levels, the researchers report in the *Journal of the American Psychosomatic Society* that the socially dominant types were 60 per cent more likely than average to die within that period. Hostile people had roughly the same increased risk, however, men who spoke calmly and quietly

had lower-than-normal rates of heart disease and early death.

The study did not cover dominant women, but Dr Babyak suspects they may not be at increased risk. "Dominance may mean something different for women," he speculates. In men, it "appears to involve getting ahead of other people strictly for the sake of getting ahead, and that seems to be a key aspect of its danger". In women, it means gathering more support for one's cause and collaborating.

Men might feel the need to dominate conversations for genetic reasons, or as a result of upbringing, the researchers say. Dr Babyak says: "Clearly, if you have these personality characteristics, it wouldn't hurt to modify them."

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Force founded to counter French threat in 1860s held little appeal for modern leaders in their youth

# Major and Portillo declined to join school cadet corps

By ALICE THOMSON AND ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN MAJOR and Michael Portillo, the two most enthusiastic Cabinet supporters for the expansion of cadet forces in state schools and inner city communities, both declined to join up as schoolboys.

The Prime Minister, a pupil of Rutlish Grammar School for Boys, was more devoted to wielding the cricket bat than the rifle. The Defence Secretary, who is spearheading the campaign to encourage more cadets, was only a Scout while at Harrow County School.

Mr Major, who had been in uniform as a Cub Scout, is said to have hated his grammar school days and the Combined Cadet Force had little appeal. Penny Junor, in her biography of Mr Major, said: "He was a pacifist so he did not like the Combined Cadet Force." The Prime Minister's brother Terry, Major-Ball, said last night: "I don't know why he never joined up. He never showed much interest as far as I can remember. I would not have been interested either. I was more into tap dancing. We were a more theatrical family."

Mr Major's headmaster, a

Mr Blenkinsop, was a disciplinarian, but the boy's decision not to join would not have upset him. The head disapproved of boys learning to be soldiers at an early age.

In the 1960s Harrow County School had the biggest state school CCF in the country, earning it the nickname "Little Sandhurst". Pupils who declined to join were reputedly regarded by the headmaster.



John Major, aged 9, in uniform as a Cub Scout

Dr A.R. Simpson, as "non-conformist saboteurs, and cynics".

Michael Gove, in his biography, *Michael Portillo, The Future of the Right*, wrote: "Michael Portillo did not join. His father had refused to bear arms during the Spanish Civil War, and his son was no more militaristic. When Michael went up to Harrow County he shared his father's idealistic leftism and, despite his enthusiasm, bordering on zeal, for involvement in every other area of school life, he stayed resolutely aloof from the parade ground."

Friends say the decision denied the ambitious teenager the post of head boy. "But he had pacifist connections and refused to be converted into conforming," wrote Mr Gove. By contrast, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, had early experience of drill-bashing and polishing boots. He was a member of the corps at Eton College. Gillian Shepherd, the Education and Employment Secretary, was a member of the Sea Rangers.

The cadet force was comput-

ed for the first two years of Tony Blair's time at Fettes School in Edinburgh. After that Mr Blair opted for community work. Jon Sopel, in his biography, *Tony Blair, The Moderniser*, wrote: "Whether it was because of Blair's burgeoning social conscience, or whether it was an easy way out of square-bashing and gun stripping, the teenager chose to help the less fortunate." The young Blair

worked in summer camps for children from the city's Canongate slums. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, never joined the CCF when he had a chance at Brentwood School. Mr Straw, however, was a Cub and a Scout. "I then joined a movement called Forest School Camps," he said last night. "It was not a uniformed movement. We had long summer camps. I have been camp-

ing ever since." Most generals, admirals and air chief marshals went through the cadet training system. General Sir Peter de la Billière, current president of the Army Cadet Force, was among them. Cadet forces can be traced back to 1860 when the British were under threat of French invasion and boys' companies were formed in most counties. When the threat did not

materialise they were kept on because they kept boys off the streets. Membership implies no obligation to join the services. The purpose of the cadet force is: "to develop in its members the qualities of good citizenship and the spirit of service to Queen and country". Cadets are given their uniform free including pullovers, combat trousers and berets but must pay for boots. They

also pay a small contribution to club facilities and the cost of rationals while at annual camp. On passing the recruits' test, the cadet makes the Cadet Promise to honour his country. The instructors are all volunteers although they can draw up to 28 days' pay at regular army rate each year. At Easter some cadets go to the Rhine to visit British forces there.



Cadets examining a machinegun during a visit to The Parachute Regiment in the 1960s; membership implies no obligation to join the Services

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## EU puts damper on Burns night

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of Scottish expatriates planning Burns suppers on Saturday will be disappointed when their supply of traditional haggis fails to materialise. The "Great chieftain o' the puddin'-race" has fallen foul of European order 94/474, the ban on British beef introduced after the BSE crisis.

Haggis is traditionally made with beef suet or beef body fat. Scottish butchers are being advised that they face prosecution if they mail traditional haggis to customers on the "European mainland". Burns supper clubs and St Andrew's societies in France and The Netherlands are finding supplies difficult to obtain.

Andrew Tulloch, a butcher in Paisley, Renfrewshire, who is preparing to sell up to three tonnes of haggis this weekend, was told by the Meat and Livestock Commission that he could not supply his European customers as in the past six years. "They suggested we could get round things by using lamb suet instead. There is no way we would consider that. The taste just wouldn't be the same."

MacSween, an award-winning Edinburgh haggis maker and butcher, is prepared to produce lamb haggis. "The supply is limited because it is not easy to get hold of large quantities of lamb fat. Sheep are smaller than cattle."

"The lamb-only haggis is for the export market and we will dispatch about 200lbs as far afield as Malaysia and Chile over the next few days. The lamb fat gives a slightly different taste. It tends to be richer and therefore is creamier on the palate."

Alan Hughes, the manager of a British-style pub in The Hague, said: "There are 60 people due to attend on Saturday night and we have a piper, as well as a lad from Edinburgh who is booked to address the haggis. The only problem is that we have a serious haggis predicament."

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Whitehall was obliged to rise to the challenge after Gulf War hero published bestselling memoirs

# General paid price for leading his men in literary combat

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

GENERAL Sir Peter de la Billière is a legend, and that has been at the heart of the problem facing the Ministry of Defence in trying to stem the proliferation of insider books on the SAS.

No prudent army chief or minister wants a showdown with a soldier of his quality, experience and daring-do. Legends are rightly held in awe.

Even the briefest glance at his military career explains why the retired general was no ordinary commander. He first joined the SAS in 1956 and served on operations in Malaysia, where he received a Mention in Despatches. Three years later he was awarded the Military Cross for action in Oman.

From 1964 to 1966 he commanded A Squadron 22 SAS on operations in Radfan and Borneo, gaining a bar to his MC. Between 1969 and 1974, he commanded operations in Musandam and Dhofar, winning the Distinguished Service Order. He was in overall charge, as Director Special Forces, during the Iranian Embassy siege and the Falklands War.

However, Sir Peter, now 62,

The SAS calendar is full of anniversaries, services and association events which now will no longer be open to former members of the regiment who have written books about their operations, be they officers or men. The biggest date in the calendar is in November, when this annual regimental reunion for serving and former members is held. General Sir Peter de la Billière is understood to have attended the last reunion. The Remembrance Service is also an important occasion.

married with three children, represented a challenge to the Ministry of Defence. How could it take action to stop former SAS members from bursting into print without seeming to be operating on an equal basis, punishing both officers and men? There is already resentment among former troopers that the "Ruperts" (their name for the officers) were treated differently when it came to book publishing. The ministry tried to stop *Immediate Action*, by Andy McNab, following the success

of his *Bravo Two Zero*, but no action was taken to prevent Sir Peter from writing his two books, even though Ministry of Defence officials were not happy about his new literary career.

Sir Peter is also not an easy character to handle. He was never a Whitehall man; he has always been a man of action, usually operating in the utmost secrecy. But since the Gulf War, he has made public statements without, apparently, concerning himself with the political implications. No one would dare to accuse him of naivety, but he has upset more than a few in Whitehall with what they have seen as ill-judged comments.

In a BBC television series on the Gulf War last year, he accused the ministry of "disgraceful interference" over RAF low-level bombing. He had wanted to stop the bombing because of the loss of six Tornados and five aircrew after only four days. He claimed that the ministry insisted on continuing.

But he was wrong. He had misinterpreted a letter from a senior RAF officer. His remarks caused outrage among RAF commanders and he was advised to keep silent in future on such matters.

Sir Peter was not even the choice of the military hierarchy for the Gulf War job. A more orthodox name was put forward, but Margaret Thatcher insisted on having the former SAS commander in charge of British troops. It proved to be an inspired move as far as the American-led operation was concerned, because of his known reputation in Washington and his knowledge of the Arab language from his swashbuckling days as an SAS officer.

However, after the Gulf War was over, he proved to be less of an asset as far as Whitehall was concerned when it became clear that he was intent on writing his memoirs.

In an interview in Riyadh after the Gulf War, he told me that he was determined that



The general: since the Gulf War, he has caused upsets at the Defence Ministry

the exploits of the SAS behind Iraqi lines should be recorded. *Storm Command*, his first book, published in 1992, duly included a chapter giving the first details of the now-celebrated Bravo Two Zero patrol.

He is understandably upset that he should face the wrath of the MoD over his books, as he sent both to the ministry and the SAS Regiment for approval. But what worried the MoD was the publicity that followed, the radio and television interviews, the

newspaper serialisations and then the follow-on memoirs by the sergeants and corporals. The SAS, supposedly the most secret regiment of the British Army, was suddenly an open book.

Sir Peter would do nothing intentionally to harm the regiment. He lived so many years of his working life with the SAS, and played a leading part in so many operations, that no one could accuse him of exploiting his past to the detriment of the regiment. His

books were intended to honour it.

However, he lost money as a Lloyd's name — reportedly more than £400,000 — while he was commanding the British forces in the Gulf and was unable to take action to avoid the losses. His son, Edward, was quoted as saying in 1995: "He lost loads of money in Lloyd's during the Gulf War, so he wrote his book to make some cash."

Secret war, page 35

# Kill 'n' tell yarns that took book world by storm

By BILL FROST

WHO dared, wrote, and prospered richly while the public's fascination with the once-secret heroes of the SAS ran high.

In the afterglow of victory for the Allies in the Gulf War, Andy McNab was to make an estimated £5 million from *Bravo Two Zero*. His account of leading an SAS patrol caught behind Iraqi lines — three killed, four captured and one escape — has sold 1.8 million copies and until recently was still high in the paperback bestseller lists.

General Sir Peter de la Billière, his commander in the Gulf and author of *Storm Command*, is also selling well: 200,000 copies so far. HarperCollins, his publishers, would not discuss how much money he had made but one insider said it was "a tasty six-figure sum".

Widely seen as the instigator of the rash of SAS books — 40 so far — Sir Peter must have taken a rather dim view of some of his rivals. Many of the military procedures described could be seen as a threat to regimental security.

McNab also denied the superman myth. Such men were fallible: felt fear in combat and made a mess of their private lives.

*Bravo Two Zero's* success brought a feeding frenzy as publishers rediscovered a market thought to have died with *Boy's Own*. McNab hit the bestseller list again last year with *Immediate Action* — the story of his life with the regiment before being sent behind Iraqi lines.

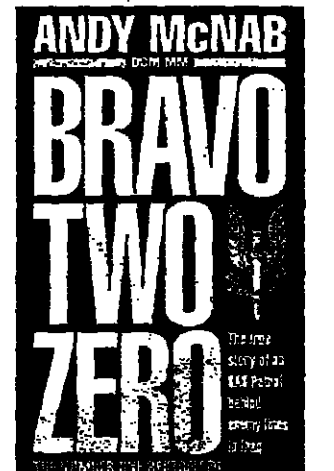
Publication of the book was delayed by the Ministry of Defence which won an injunction lifted by the High Court last year only when the author agreed to alter the text.

Corporal Chris Ryan, the only one of McNab's patrol to escape capture, benefited hugely from what publishers described as *Operation Bestseller*. *The One That Got Away* sold tens of thousands within weeks.

In 1995, Harry McCallion cashed in on his experiences with the numbingly violent

*Killing Zone*. Vivid descriptions of brutality by some of those he served with in the SAS, the Parachute Regiment and South African Special Forces guaranteed a place in the bestseller lists and sales estimated to have made the author £55,000.

Last year marked saturation point for "shoot 'n' tell" SAS memoirs. Five books were published by former members of the regiment. All did well initially, some conspicuously so. Sergeant-Major Barry Davies was a Christmas favourite with his *SAS Escape, Evasion and Survival Manual* and *Shadow of the Dove*, written with one of the terrorists who



Bravo Two Zero: the bestseller by McNab

hijacked a Lufthansa airliner he helped to liberate at Mogadishu in 1977.

Last September an insider's account of the role of women in the regiment raised eyebrows at SAS headquarters in Hereford. James Rennie's *The Operators* revealed the existence of the hitherto secret 14 Intelligence Company, part of the SAS. The primary role of "14 Int" is the surveillance of IRA units on their home turf. However, women have been "in at the kill" — playing a prime role in the annihilation of the eight-man Tyrone brigade in an ambush at Loughgall in 1987.

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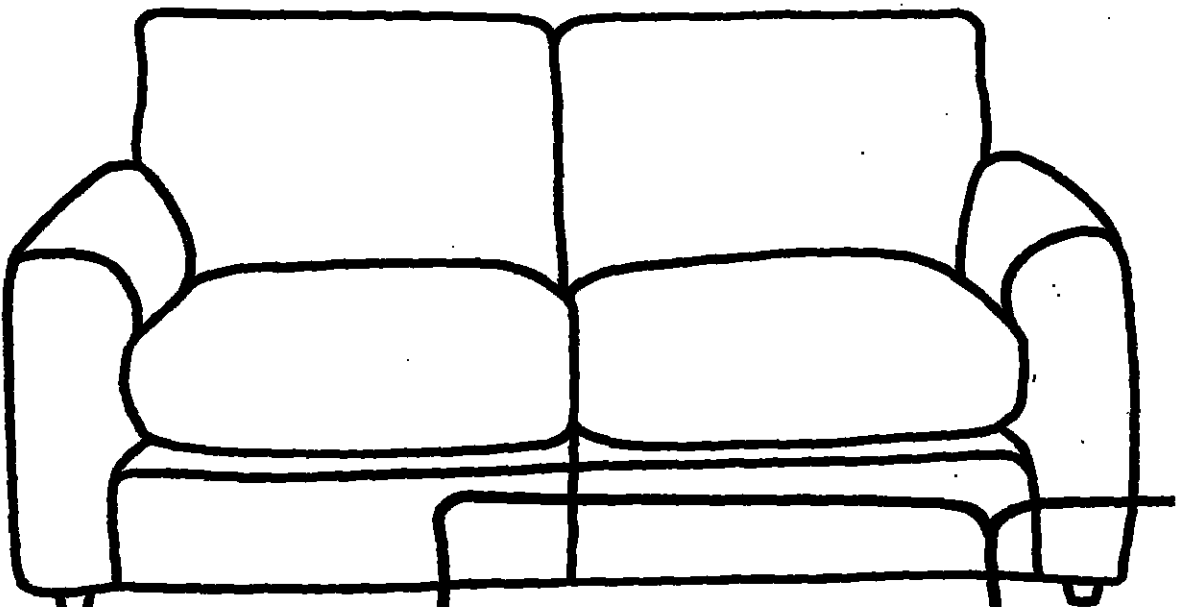
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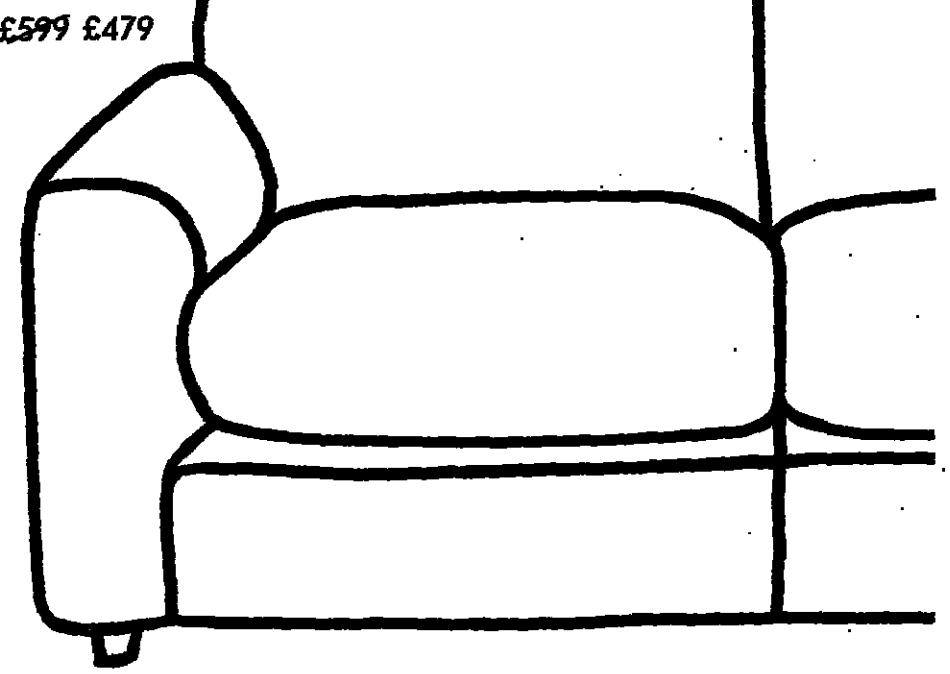
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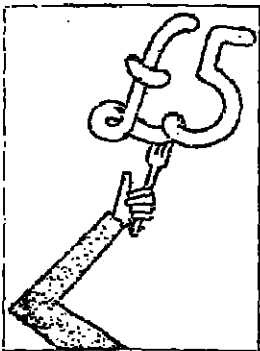
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# Tell-tale bite mark led police to girl's killer, court is told

By JOANNA BALE

A YOUTH accused of murdering the schoolgirl Naomi Smith left a distinctive bite mark on her body which was "better than an autograph" in proving his guilt, a court was told yesterday.

The imprint of Edwin Hopkins' upper and lower jaw on the girl's breast matched his "distinctive and unusual teeth" and DNA tests on saliva from the wound provided "extremely powerful evidence" that he committed the killing, Mr Hopkins, 19, denies murder.

Colman Treacy, QC, for the prosecution, told Birmingham Crown Court that Miss Smith, 15, was murdered after she posted a letter for her mother in September 1995. Her throat was cut and her body mutilated. "Certainly, what the killer did involved a warped sexual attack on that girl," he said.

Her father, Brian, and her best friend, Emma Jones, discovered the body under a slide on a recreation ground 100 yards from her home at Ansley Common, near Nuneaton, Warwickshire, as family and friends searched for her. She had gone out at 9.40pm and, when she did not return a few minutes later, her parents became worried. They reported her missing just after 11.30pm. Mr Treacy told the court that Miss Jones had been on foot while Mr Smith was in his car, lighting her



Naomi Smith: went out to post mother's letter

way with its headlights as they went to look for the missing girl at the recreation ground.

"Emma saw some sort of bundle underneath the slide," Mr Treacy said. "She ran over and, when she got there, she found a dreadful sight." Mr Smith put his daughter in the recovery position and rushed home to call the emergency services, but she was already dead. He returned with his wife, Catherine, to cover the body.

The court was told that a post-mortem examination showed that there was also bruising to her neck and face, consistent with having been gripped by the throat and punched.

But it was the bite that led police to her killer, he said. "In this case it was as if — probably better than if — the killer had left his autograph, because what was found in the

area of the bite provides some of the most powerful evidence available to the prosecution in this case."

Police interviewed dozens of young men from the village and took swabs of saliva from their mouths for DNA profiling. Mr Hopkins was arrested when tests matched his DNA with the saliva sample from Miss Smith's body.

Casts were then taken of his teeth, one of which had been knocked out as a child, producing a "distinctive arrangement". Mr Treacy said: "Mr Hopkins' upper jaw and lower jaw are a match for the bite marks on the breast in every respect. There are no incompatibilities: no differences."

Mr Hopkins, a factory worker who lived with his parents ten minutes' walk away from Miss Smith's home, and who was known to her, denied the killing, but told police that he had been out on his bicycle at the time as he was on his way back to his sister's house from a local office where he had gone to buy beer.

The court was told that his route coincided with that of Miss Smith and that he was known to carry a knife on occasions, as well as having a collection of them. "She was killed by a man who used a knife on her. The defendant had an interest in knives and you are entitled to know that information for the purpose of asking yourselves about the



Edwin Hopkins, who denies murder, was arrested after DNA tests

identity of the killer," Mr Treacy said.

After explaining that the DNA from the saliva which matched that of Mr Hopkins occurred in less than one in 250 million people, Mr Treacy added: "From the DNA evidence alone, you may think that it is so powerful that the

only sensible conclusion that you can come to is that the defendant is the killer. The other evidence clinches the case beyond any reasonable argument at all."

Mr Treacy added that Mr Hopkins changed his shirt and trousers before returning to his sister's house. He concluded: "We say

that the evidence is damning, but the defendant will not face the responsibility that he committed such a horrific crime."

Mr Smith later took the witness stand and was barely audible as he confirmed details of the case.

The case continues.

## Police admit cost limits use of speed cameras

By STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TENS of thousands of speeding motorists are escaping prosecution because police cannot afford to put film in roadside cameras, chief constables said yesterday.

The Association of Chief Police Officers said that many forces were rationing the cameras' use to balance budgets. Police should be allowed to keep part of the speeding fines or convicted motorists should pay an administration fee, they said.

Forces are leaving cameras empty for a time or setting them to trigger at only very high speeds. Police are delaying emptying the cameras of film to save processing costs and often miss the 14-day legal limit for sending out prosecution notices.

The cameras, introduced in the early 1990s, are used by nearly 35 forces in England and Wales. Installation, about £20,000 for each camera, is paid by local authorities. Motorists may pay £40 under a fixed penalty scheme or go to court and risk larger fines, plus costs which can go to the police. Recent Home Office research into ten forces showed the cameras saved £30 million a year in reduced accidents.

The Home Office said that officials and ministers in several government departments knew of police concern and funding was being studied.

Leading article, page 19

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## Children in care 'abused on unimaginable scale'

By RUSSELL JENKINS

SOME of the most difficult and disturbed children were subjected to systematic sexual and physical abuse "on an almost unimaginable scale" at a notorious care home in North Wales during the 1970s and 1980s, a public inquiry was told yesterday.

Boys made 138 complaints of abuse against staff at Bryn Estyn, the care home in Wrexham at the centre of the biggest investigation in this country into child sex abuse.

With the headmaster turning a "blind eye", his deputy Peter Howarth used his position of authority to commit homosexual offences "of the gravest kind" upon boys.

Howarth, convicted of sexual offences against seven boys and sentenced to ten years in jail, was at the head of a regime of cruelty, fear and intimidation. Four others from Bryn Estyn were convicted of criminal offences at the

Zurich Municipal, an insurance company, targeted Clwyd County Council to suppress an internal inquiry into claims that abuse was widespread in its care homes because it feared that the victims would sue for compensation.

Boys made 138 complaints of abuse against staff at Bryn Estyn, the care home in Wrexham at the centre of the biggest investigation in this country into child sex abuse.

With the headmaster turning a "blind eye", his deputy Peter Howarth used his position of authority to commit homosexual offences "of the gravest kind" upon boys.

ed in the 1970s and 1980s. Gerard Elias, QC, said it was possible that a paedophile ring was operating at Bryn Estyn. He asked whether there was evidence of infiltration by abusers and concluded that there was little doubt that most serious abusers knew each other. The homes presented attractive targets.

Mr Elias said the tribunal, being held at Ewloe, Flintshire, "If there was a ring of abusers, how far did this extend? During the course of a police investigation in 1991-92, many names were mentioned as belonging to the alleged paedophile ring in North Wales. Some of these names were well known to the public... the tribunal will leave no stone unturned in its search for the truth."

Mr Elias said that since 1975 there appeared to have been 16 police inquiries into abuse at homes. Complaints were recorded in almost half the 84 homes in the region.

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## Children can't find London on map

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

FEWER than half of all school children can place London on a map of Britain and more than a third do not know where Scotland is, according to a survey published yesterday.

Government advisers admitted that the evidence from 900 pupils aged between eight and 16 was "surprising and disturbing". The national curriculum stipulates that children should be able to identify principal cities, regions and rivers on a map of the United Kingdom by the age of 11.

Asked to point to London on a map, some children identified cities as far away as Liverpool or Aberdeen. Only 28 per cent could find Edinburgh; even in Scotland only 39 per cent answered correctly.

The survey, carried out by NOP for Microsoft electronic publishers, uncovered even greater ignorance of foreign countries. Only 42 per cent could identify Germany on a map of Europe and the same proportion knew that Japanese was the main language spoken in Tokyo. Only 18 per cent knew that the Acropolis was in Greece. Almost 20 per cent had no idea that the Pyramids were in Egypt or that the Statue of Liberty was in the United States.

The national curriculum requires children aged 11 to 14 to study in depth two countries outside Britain.

A spokesman for the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority expressed concern at the findings, although the older children would have passed through primary school before the national curriculum was introduced. "We would hope that children following the national curriculum would be much better equipped to answer these kinds of questions than some of these answers suggest."

Boys scored higher marks than girls in the test, with those in the Midlands and the South East of England faring best, with at least 16 per cent correct answers. In the South West, only 3 per cent of the answers were right.

## New dinosaur found on the Isle of Wight

### 26ft hunter slashed prey with 5in claws

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A PREVIOUSLY unknown species of flesh-eating dinosaur has been discovered on the Isle of Wight. The almost complete skeleton is 26ft long and has a mouth full of razor-sharp teeth.

The fossilised bones were unearthed piece by piece over several years and have now been claimed as a new species by Steve Hutt, curator of the Museum of Isle of Wight Geology. He calls it *Neovenator salerii* ("Saleri's new hunter", after the family on whose land it was found) and places it in the same family as allosaurs, carnivorous dinosaurs found in America.

The neovenator flourished about 120 million years ago and probably fed on herds of herbivorous iguanodon, which grazed the same habitat in the Cretaceous period. It would have reared up on its hind legs, putting its height at almost the length of the skeleton.

"We believe the neovenator would run down its prey and then use its huge claws and teeth to cling on and make the kill," Mr Hutt said. "Its teeth range from 2cm to 5cm [¾in-2in] in length and its claws are up to 13cm [5in] long."

The first traces of the skeleton were washed out on the island's south coast by winter rains. More recently excavations were begun and enough of the skeleton was found to identify the creature as new. Identification was difficult because the bones were confused with those of an almost complete iguanodon.

Dr Angela Milner, dinosaur expert at the Natural History Museum in London, said that she agreed with Mr Hutt that the species was new. "It has taken a long time to collect enough of the specimen to be sure, but I am convinced by the evidence," she said. Mr



Artist's impression of the new species, which flourished 120 million years ago and probably ran down its prey

Hutt said: "This is the first new species of flesh-eating dinosaur to be found in this country for many years, and the completeness of the skeleton makes it of huge importance."

The neovenator was slightly lighter and quicker than the allosaurus: "It is like compar-

ing a tiger to a cheetah. I suppose." Using its huge tail as a stabiliser, the creature would have run faster than an average human and scavenged upon other kills as well as taking its own prey.

*Tyrannosaurus rex* belonged to another branch of giant flesh-eaters but lived in

the late Cretaceous, 50 million years later, in North America and Asia. They measured up to 90ft from snout to tail tip.

"Neovenator was certainly the major flesh-eater around in the UK at this time, and evolved slightly differently from the allosaurus because of the continent of which this

area was part had just broken off from America," Mr Hutt said. "The well-preserved skeleton we have found is that of a mature adult and indicates that the neovenator probably grew to around 30ft long. All that is missing from this skeleton is the back of the skull and its forelimbs."

## Scientists cultivate a recipe for riches

IN A breakthrough for food-lovers, scientists have succeeded in growing the golden chanterelle in a greenhouse (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Chanterelles, edible fungi found in woods, are big business, generating about £1 billion of sales every year, but at present all of them have to be gathered from the wild. Large quantities are imported from the United States, because the fungus is declining in Europe.

Dr Eric Danell, of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, and Dr Francisco Camacho, of Oregon State University, report in *Nature* that they have persuaded the golden chanterelle to grow on the roots of pine seedlings and to produce the

fruiting bodies that appear above the ground and are collected to eat. They suggest that a cultivated supply of chanterelles might be produced by planting out such prepared seedlings in a forest.

However, Professor Roy Walling, of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh, is not so sure. He wonders if rival fungi in the soil might not displace the chanterelles from the tree roots where they grow. "The big question is whether these results can be repeated consistently," he writes in a commentary in *Nature*. He believes that a more likely method of cultivation would be to understand what the fungus gets from the tree it grows on, and to provide that artificially. Then



The golden chanterelle

chanterelles might be grown without needing to grow the trees as well.

Antonio Carlucci, of the Neal Street Restaurant in central London, had other doubts: "Cultivation is not always a good thing. You can lose the taste, the smell and the colour. Cultivation may have some positive advantages, like a maggot-free environment, but the major advantage of a mushroom is the taste and smell. You might have something that looks like a mushroom but doesn't taste like one."

## Weather forecast may soon include storms from space

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE impact on Earth of space storms — which can wreak havoc on computers, telecommunications and power lines — can now be accurately predicted after a breakthrough by scientists.

An international team of researchers, including scientists from the British Antarctic Survey, announced yesterday that they had for the first time successfully forecast the impact of a major magnetic storm after seeing it forming on the surface of the Sun.

The storm — a mass of charged and radioactive particles — hit Earth four days later with sufficient force to damage the Telestar 401 satellites, cut-

ting television transmissions to millions of viewers in the United States. The satellite is still out of operation and may have short-circuited.

John Dudeney, of the British Antarctic Survey, said yesterday: "For the first time we were able to see the birth of a space storm and have sufficient instruments in place to follow its effects all the way from the explosion on the Sun to the final dumping of gigawatts of energy into the Antarctic atmosphere."

Severe magnetic storms have in the past triggered power blackouts, sent ships' magnetic navigation systems haywire and forced Concorde

to lower its altitude to avoid hazardous radiation.

The explosion which charged the particles was detected on January 6 by the Solar Heliospheric Observatory, a space craft built by the European Space Agency and NASA, which orbits near the Sun. Satellites and ground stations tracked its path as it headed towards Earth and collided with the atmosphere on January 10.

Bigger storms are expected as activity on the Sun intensifies and reaches a peak, called the solar maximum, in 2002. Scientists hope to be able to forecast storms a week or two in advance.

## Computer veterans find time on their side

By GLEN OWEN

AGEING computer programmers forced out of their jobs by whizz-kids are being asked to return by an industry facing a "millennium timebomb".

Millions of computer-based systems, including lifts, have internal clocks that are not programmed to recognise the change of date from December 31, 1999, to January 1, 2000.

Faced with the prospect of lifts stalling and databases crashing, at an estimated cost to world business of about £400 billion, countries are slowly starting to act. The Government has set up an agency called Task Force 2000 to raise management awareness of the threat.

Computer recruitment agencies are being called on to find the old guard of the software world. Many of the programmers who built today's systems have since been laid off, unable to adapt to the speed of technological change. But only they are familiar enough with the older computer languages to do the necessary work.

Andy Smith, of the recruitment agency CFS Trident, said: "We are keenly aware that skills which seemed obsolete three or four years ago are now in great demand."

Clive South, of Software Personnel, said that finding retired programmers could sometimes be difficult. "They tend not to be registered with employment agencies, so they are quite hard to find."

"Then we have to work out how to attract them. We will be saying to them that we can give them a good salary for fun work. They can look forward to at least three years' employment."

In the case of home PCs, those built this year are expected to be able to cope with the change, but owners of older machines may have to go back to their software supplier to update their programmes. Otherwise some packages, for example accounting software, will go haywire.

Accountancy, page 28

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# Citizen's jury is asked to solve problems of NHS

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A CITIZEN'S jury of 16 people is being asked to decide which GP services the public is prepared to lose in one of Britain's most deprived areas. The verdict could influence the future of family doctors throughout the country.

The experiment is being held in Sunderland as the city tries to cope with a shortage of family doctors. The jurors will begin four days of deliberation on Saturday to consider whether they would accept some of a doctor's traditional duties being assigned to nurses or pharmacists.

These might include specially trained nurses dealing with common injuries and minor complaints such as colds, gastroenteritis, insect bites, allergies, cuts and sprains. It is the most important decision yet entrusted to a citizen's jury in Britain, although this type of public consultation is often used in Germany and the United States.

The NHS is looking for acceptable alternatives to meet a shortage of family doctors. Too few are training in general practice, preferring more glamorous specialties instead. Sunderland has particular difficulty in recruiting for an urban area blighted by high unemployment. The city needs 170 GPs to cope with the size of its population, but has only 137. Of those, a quarter will retire in the next five years or are considering moving.

The experiment by Sunderland Health Authority has run into difficulties finding jurors who accurately represent the population. Of the 16, only five have full-time jobs and only

two are below the age of 46. Some younger people did not want to give up a weekend.

The jurors will be asked: "A number of services are currently available from GPs. Would local people accept some of the following: another doctor, pharmacist, nurse practitioner?" Nurses could deal with minor complaints, and pharmacists could have an extended role advising on drug treatments and side effects. Doctors could be employed on short-term contracts by health trusts, but GPs fear this would destroy the personal relationships they build up with families.

Citizen's juries are a new form of public consultation in Britain, used as an alternative to opinion polls. The idea is to give a group of ordinary people enough information to study an issue in detail, then ask them to provide an informed opinion. The Sunderland jury will be given 15-minute talks by experts

including doctors, administrators, nurses and academics. The idea of letting a citizen's jury make such a vital decision was condemned by Alice Mahon, the Labour MP for Hall-fax, who feared the method could be used to downgrade services under the guise of democratic consultation.

"It is quite a dangerous idea," she said. "I don't think ordinary lay members of the public have the knowledge to decide. We have to rely on professionals. I have worked in the health service, sat on a health authority and been a member of the select committee on health for five years. I still consider myself to be a lay person who just wouldn't have the knowledge to make these kinds of decisions."

Brian Posner, of the Sunderland local medical committee which represents GPs, said they had co-operated with the experiment and an open mind about the idea. "There are a lot of worries in the profession, certainly in Sunderland. We are not convinced it is going to yield any useful information. There are lots of potential pitfalls. For example, is the jury going to be truly representative?"

Maureen Dale, quality manager for the authority, defended the proposal, whose £12,000 costs are being provided by the King's Fund, a national research body. She said: "We aren't trying to cut services. The options we are suggesting to the jury are not necessarily cheaper. It is looking at alternatives other than big recruitment drives to get doctors into general practice."



Mahon: doubts if public has relevant knowledge

## Leeds player questioned

THE former England footballer Carlton Palmer has been questioned by police over an alleged sexual assault on an 18-year-old girl.

Mr Palmer, who plays for Leeds, was held at a police station in the city for an hour on Monday and released on bail pending further inquiries. The incident allegedly took place in a pub on Thursday night. Neither the football club nor Mr Palmer's solicitor, Nicholas Freeman, would comment yesterday.

After a separate incident, Mr Palmer, 30, has been charged with assaulting a police officer and threatening behaviour and is due to appear before magistrates in Leeds next month. He would strenuously deny those charges, Mr Freeman said.

## Yellow card for lion that angered Wolves

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

LOFTY THE LION, voted English football's top mascot, is to be "suspended" by Bolton Wanderers from performing in front of rival fans.

The antics of Lofty, who came top of a recent poll of football league mascots, caused a brawl during the first division match against Wolverhampton Wanderers last Saturday. The Wolves' supporters club is writing to the Football Association to complain about Lofty's half-time routine, which it says intimidated its members. Wolves lost the match 3-0.

Des McBain, Bolton's chief executive, said yesterday: "From now on, if we feel there

could be a disturbance, Lofty will be told not to perform in front of rival fans. I have discussed the incident with Lofty and he is quite upset about the whole thing. He doesn't have any idea why there was such aggression towards him by the Wolverhampton supporters."

Lofty, named after Nat Lofthouse, the former Bolton and England centre-forward, who was nicknamed the Lion of Vienna, so upset the Wolves supporters that they pelted him with meat pies and tried to get on to the pitch. Muriel Bates, the Wolves Supporters Club treasurer, said: "The mascot is supposed to entertain the youngsters, not incite the rival fans."



Yves Saint Laurent with Claudia Schiffer, wearing one of his bridal gowns, after his show in Paris yesterday

## Yesterday's rebel is today's classic stylist

FROM HEATH BROWN IN PARIS

AS WITH John Galliano recently, the appointment of Yves Saint Laurent to the house of Christian Dior back in 1960 caused raised eyebrows. Innovative ideas of dressing haute couture customers in trouser suits, student duffel coats and androgynous tuxedos shocked many at the time, but his revolutionary ideas soon became acceptable. After all the

hype of the recent Galliano/Dior show (similar to the mood of that legendary first Saint Laurent show for Dior) it is interesting to see how the maverick of old compares with the new.

Saint Laurent's show yesterday had no outlandish shockers or picture-pleasing gimmicks. It was pure fashion. In true salon style, he showed a stream of perfectly tailored cr pe trouser suits with his usual boxy shoulder shapes (just right for today's silhouette) and floral printed

chiffons. A reference to his groundbreaking past was shown in his "smoking" outfits — black tuxedo styles.

The current trend in asymmetric shoulder lines was followed, and Claudia Schiffer — stamping up the catwalk like a Landfrau — wore a sumptuous crystal embroidered evening gown. All in all, it was a very pretty collection, less busy and garish than YSL collections of the past. Once a good designer, always a good designer.

## Nurses 'told to videotape insurance claimants'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

NURSES are being asked to make clandestine video recordings of people claiming insurance payments for sickness and injury, according to their disciplinary body. They are also being encouraged to take blood samples without explaining to claimants what they will be used for.

The practice was condemned yesterday by the Royal College of Nursing, which warned nurses that they could face disciplinary action if they filmed patients, and could be guilty of assault and breaching confidentiality.

Nurses have been answering advertisements in local newspapers offering £12-an-hour casual work to carry out medical examinations on insurance clients.

Three of them telephoned the helpline of their disciplinary body, the United Kingdom Central Council, to ask if the methods were ethical. The council, which has powers to strike people off the nursing register, said that such work could breach nurses' professional duty to patients.

Liz McAnulty, the council's professional officer, told Nursing Standard magazine that its guidance was to act in the interest of the patient or client.

The Association of British Insurers, which claims that £560 million a year is lost to personal injury fraud, said nurses should not be asked to film patients covertly.

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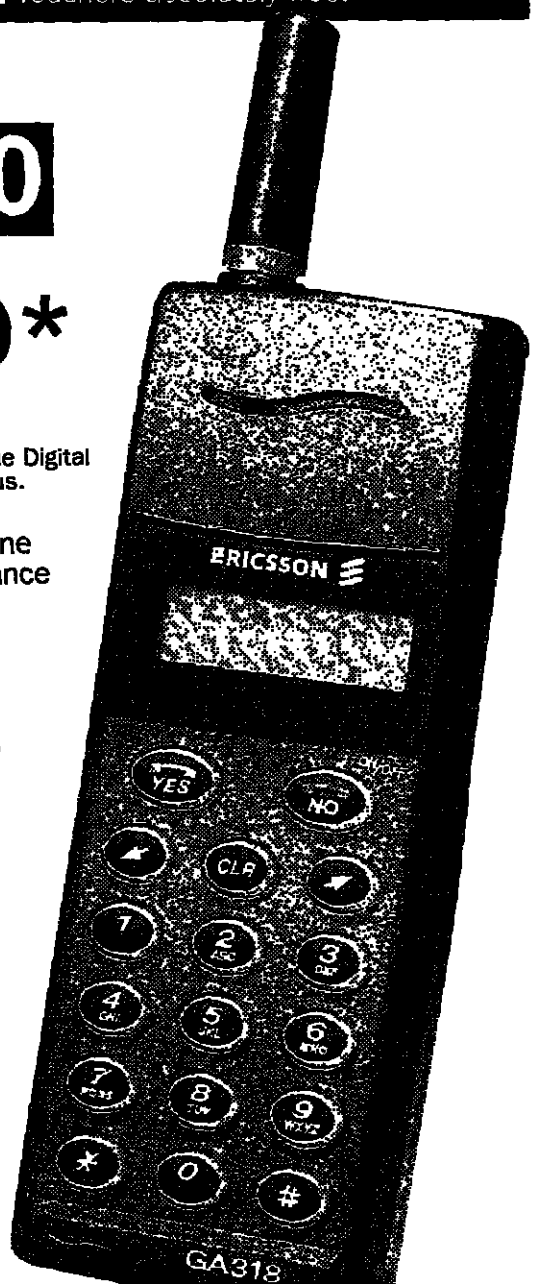
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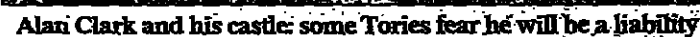
# Southern toff meets northern lass in battle for safe Tory seat

But even as they left the second round selection, members were overheard to say: "She's a terrific girl . . . a great speaker with a warm personality . . . But she's



Martin Howe, a 43-year-old barrister, could easily come through the

Mr Moylan, a councillor in Kensington and Chelsea, fought the Erdington seat in 1983, polling only 231 fewer votes than the successful Labour candidate. He is an opera fanatic and has a reputation for being arrogant and on a different wavelength from working people. People who know him, however, say that this is a misconceived view and point out that he is a bus driver's son from Birmingham and altogether a "good, knockabout bloke with a great sense of humour".



Downing Street said that John Major supported Mr Heseltine's attack on Labour, which he accused of showing "jackdaw tendencies" by stealing Tory policies.

**Letters, page 19**

order to give candid answers to committees, they are bound to stray into policy.

The draft resolution does not resolve this problem, which mainly applies to the heads of a few big agencies. But the Commons will probably be given a chance to vote on the Liberal Democrat proposal when it debates the matter shortly. The priority, however, is to pass the resolution, as the Public Service Committee urged yesterday. That at least is something positive: the current Parliament can do before it expires.

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# MPs demand ban on media payments to trial witnesses

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MPs called yesterday for laws to outlaw media payments to witnesses in criminal trials and to restrict pre-trial publicity.

The all-party National Heritage Committee, chaired by Gerald Kaufman, urged the Government to bring in legislation as soon as possible to ban media payments for the stories of witnesses. The MPs also called for the Contempt of Court Act 1981 to be strengthened, so that individual newspapers cannot escape punishment where pre-trial publicity collectively causes a trial to collapse.

They added that the Press Complaints Commission should impose fines and order compensation where there are breaches of its code, and that offending journalists should be named publicly.

The MPs, whose recommendations are made in a report, *Press activity affecting court cases*, strongly support proposals from Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, in the wake of high-profile trials such as that of Rosemary West in 1995, to ban media payments to witnesses. In the West case, up to 19 witnesses were believed to have made deals and some received

money. The problem also arose in the Moors murders case and the trials of Jeremy Thorpe and Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper.

Mr Kaufman said: "We believe that legislation should be brought in to make it illegal for the media — newspapers, television and radio — to pay witnesses in advance of, during, or immediately after a trial." The Court of Appeal in its ruling on the Rosemary West case had said it believed that "this kind of activity could prejudice the course of justice", he added.

The report said: "The assumption behind the criticisms of payments to witnesses is that the interview may cause witnesses to exaggerate, distort or withhold their account of matters which may be the subject of evidence." Payments to witnesses in the West case did not affect the outcome, the MPs said, but could easily have done so.

The MPs were strongly critical of the revised code of the Press Complaints Commission, which has been drawn up to tackle buying up of witnesses, and they accused the commission of failing to take adequate action. "Time and again the Press Com-

plaints Commission's reaction to criticism is to offer half measures when radical change is called for."

The MPs proposed that neither newspapers nor broadcasters should be allowed to approach witnesses until after the expiry of the time limit for giving notice of appeal against a verdict. If a journalist became aware of material relevant to a pending criminal trial, that material should not be bought or published, "but brought urgently to the attention of those responsible for trial".

Where no payments are made, the MPs said it was still undesirable for witnesses to be interviewed before trial. But they agreed with the Lord Chancellor that such interviews should not be banned.

They added that the Contempt of Court Act had proved inadequate to stop pre-trial publicity and self-censoring by the commission was not working.



Zia Mahmood yesterday: "The game is enthralling, almost as enjoyable as sex"

## Card king looks to build bridges

By EMMA WILKINS

THERE could hardly be a more appropriate address for Zia Mahmood, who describes himself as the best bridge player in the world, than Trump Tower in New York. The flamboyant Pakistani-born bridge enthusiast is fast succeeding Omar Sharif as international ambassador for the game.

Mahmood, 50, who was born into one of Pakistan's most wealthy families, once won £50,000 in an evening. He bought a Rolls-Royce, danced at Annabel's, dined at San Lorenzo and, by his own admission, gained a reputation as a bit of a playboy.

Now he is determined to do for bridge what his countryman and friend, Imran Khan, has done for cricket. "People think bridge is somehow boring and played by old people, but it is the most enthralling, exciting and stimulating game. It is like a drug. It is almost as enjoyable as sex. All my life I've been exceptionally lazy, rather egotistical and selfish, but when I play bridge I become alive, involved and sometimes humbled."

Mahmood was educated at Rugby and returned to Paki-

stan on the death of his mother. "When I was young, the only way to get a date with a girl in Pakistan was to join a bridge party because of the strict rules of chaperoning. The moment I played I was struck like a thunderbolt and I have never stopped loving or playing the game."

He puts his skills to the test this week during the Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship at the White House Hotel in London. The public will be able to peer over players' shoulders. Most are so engrossed that they are unaware of any other presence, Mahmood says.

## Judge ends 'soft' handling of thief

By A STAFF REPORTER

A JUDGE rejected "soft" treatment for a persistent young criminal yesterday and instead gave him 12 months' youth custody for stealing a charity collection box.

It was Daniel Austin's second appearance in a week before Judge Coombe. Last week, he was given 12 months for manslaughter.

Austin, 20, of Eatham, west London, has convictions dating back to 1992 for thefts and burglaries. At the Old Bailey yesterday, Judge Coombe said: "He has been treated as mercifully as anybody can hope to be and it has absolute-

ly failed. If ever there is a case where soft sentences do not work, it is this."

Austin admitted burglary at a chemist's shop last June in Hounslow, where he stole £30 in cash and a breast cancer charity box containing an unknown amount. Judge Coombe said: "Can anybody be more mean than that he should steal a breast cancer box? However much his own life has been disadvantaged, that pales into remote significance compared with those who suffer from cancer."

The judge had heard that Austin was thrown out of his family home at 14 and drifted between homes before reaching secure accommodation, where he mixed with young criminals.

Last week he was sentenced for his part in the death of a 20-year-old man in an unprovoked attack. Another man, Jimmy Watts, 21, from Feltham, was jailed for life for the man's murder. Austin said he never intended serious harm to the victim and did not think that Watts would use a knife.

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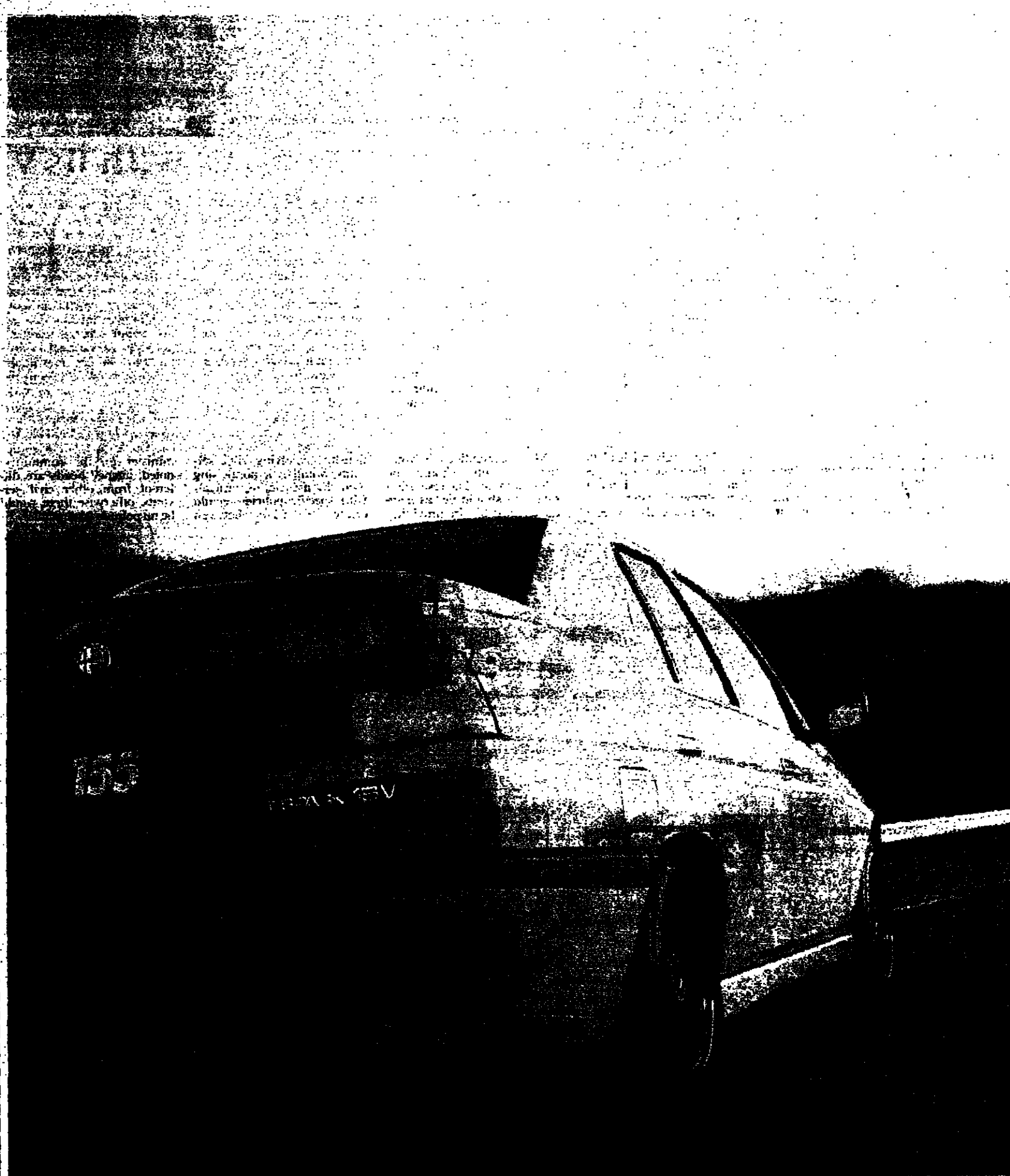
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# Clinton bars campaign funds from foreigners

FROM BRUNWEN MAJDOO  
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON has declared that his party will no longer accept money from foreigners living in the United States, in an attempt to give his second term a clean start, free from the controversies over fund-raising which shadowed Democrats throughout the election campaign.

In his bid to regain the moral high ground from the Republicans who have harried Democrats for

months over questionable donations, he also called on Congress to pass legislation quickly to tighten campaign finance laws. "Delay will mean the death of reform one more time," he said, calling on both parties to work together to push through change.

In a conciliatory gesture towards Republicans, he also announced that his budget proposal for the 1998 fiscal year would recommend trimming Medicare spending by \$138 billion (\$83 billion) over six years, a much sharper cut than he

had previously countenanced. Mr Clinton's budget, due to be presented to Congress in two weeks, will be a crucial test of whether congressional Republicans and Democrats are prepared to work with him and each other, or whether they will revert to partisan battles which could undermine his second term.

The President's call for campaign finance reform, issued late on Tuesday night in a speech to the Democratic National Committee (DNC), received a frosty reception from Republicans, who said Demo-

cratic fund-raisers must first demonstrate that they were working within current law.

Gerald Solomon, the Republican chairman of the House rules committee, called on the FBI to investigate John Huang, the Democratic fund-raiser responsible for donations at the heart of recent controversy. He questioned whether Mr Huang might have committed national security violations while working at the Commerce Department.

Controversy over both parties' fund-raising techniques comes in the wake of an election campaign in which they raised unprecedented sums of "soft-money" donations. These contributions take advantage of a loophole in current laws, which tightly restrict donations to individual politicians' campaigns, but apply much looser rules to party fund-raising, even though party funds may lead through to campaigns.

In addition, the Democrats have fallen foul of laws banning significant donations from non-US citizens. After Mr Huang's drive to raise money from Asian communities, the Democrats have been forced to return more than \$1 million in contributions which appeared to violate the rules.

According to new party guidelines laid out by Mr Clinton and the DNC, fund-raisers will now turn down some categories of donation permitted by current laws. As well as banning all money from non-citizens, the party will no longer take money from US subsidiaries of foreign companies. Most

significant of all is the party's new self-imposed limit on "soft-money" contributions to \$100,000 from an individual, company or union.

Albright approved: The Senate moved quickly to confirm Madeleine Albright as Secretary of State, making her the first woman ever to hold such high office in America. No opposition was anticipated and her swearing-in was expected as early as today. She was to be the first new member of Mr Clinton's second-term Cabinet to pass Senate muster. (AP)

## Bomb as marchers attack abortion

FROM TOM RHODES  
IN WASHINGTON

A BOMB exploded near a clinic in Washington yesterday as thousands of demonstrators marched through the American capital in protest over the 24th anniversary of the Act that first made abortion legal in the United States.

Police initially said they saw no apparent connection between the bombing and a series of events to mark the anniversary of *Roe vs Wade*, the Supreme Court ruling that has continued to cause fierce controversy since its inception in 1973.

The attack followed two bomb explosions at an abortion clinic in Atlanta last week as activists appeared to step up their campaign in advance of yesterday's events, including the Right to Life march and pro-choice speeches by Hillary Clinton and Al Gore, the Vice-President.

As the FBI was called in to investigate the latest bombing, President Clinton said that only terrorists would perpetrate "acts of violence against those who are trying to exercise their constitutional rights".

Four pipe bombs, discovered at a small office just outside Atlanta, are being tested for possible links to last week's bomb attacks at an abortion clinic. (Reuters)

## Yeltsin back at his desk as Duma fails to oust him

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S parliament yesterday failed in its first attempt to remove President Yeltsin from power on the grounds that illness has made him no longer fit to hold office. But left-wing and nationalist opponents vowed to continue their campaign until he is ousted.

Mr Yeltsin yesterday morning defied his doctors' advice and unexpectedly returned to his office in the Kremlin for the first time in two weeks.

His purpose ostensibly was to meet Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, but in reality to prove to his detractors that he is still well in control.

In the debate in the Duma, the lower house of parliament, Viktor Ilyukhin, the Communist deputy who initiated the resolution to get rid of Mr Yeltsin, said: "Due to his state of health, the President is incapable of exercising his powers. Either we agree to

Russia's collapse, or try to do something about it."

Deputies approved his appeal "in principle", but reversed their decision during a second reading, denying the resolution a majority. There may now be a third vote next month.

Sergei Belayev, the leader of Our Home Is Russia, the pro-government faction, denounced the proceedings as a "humiliating show" and stormed out of the chamber. He was followed by members of his party and liberal deputies from the Yabloko faction.

Whatever the result of the debate, legal experts insist that it was an exercise in futility. Russia's Constitution does provide for the head of state's removal if he is unfit to hold office, but it does not specify who makes the decision.

Andrei Vorobyov, a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, denounced the parliamentary session as a "shame for Russia" and accused the Opposition of trying to exploit what he called "an elementary case of the flu".

Nevertheless, the very public debate about the Russian leader's state of health, after an absence of nearly seven months, first with a heart condition and now with pneumonia, dealt a humiliating blow to President Yeltsin's already battered prestige.

And it is not clear that his brief return to the Kremlin did much to reassure the public, particularly since it was not filmed for television, suggesting that he must still look and sound very weak.



Ilyukhin: was behind debate in the Duma



Keiko Okumura, who works for the manufacturer, examines one of the new birdlike virtual pets

## Japan goes walkies with its virtual pets

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT  
IN TOKYO

YOUNG women in their thousands are finding fulfilment by rearing a loveable new species of pet that has spawned a bizarre craze in Japan this winter.

The *tamagotchi* (cute little egg) is the name of a digital birdlike creature generated by a miniature electronic game. Since the game was launched two months ago, 350,000 have been sold. A black market has grown up and the pocket-size pets are changing hands for 20 times the retail price of 1,980 yen (£20).

But this is an electronic game with a difference — and

a dark secret. The *tamagotchi* may be merely a virtual pet, but it acquires a life of its own once the owner sets a time button and the birdlike creature hatches on the screen.

From that point on, the *tamagotchi* imposes a rigorous routine on the owner: demanding to be fed, groomed and amused by emitting a variety of electronic sounds.

The creature squeaks with delight when fed dabbles by the press of a button. But an insistent "pipi" for instance, warns the owner that the creature needs to relieve itself. The appropriate button must be pressed, which is less

irksome than taking a pet to the nearest latrine, perhaps, but a demand the owner ignores at her peril (school-

girls and young working women are the most avid purchasers).

"If you neglect to give the *tamagotchi* his three meals, snacks, clean up after him, and do the proper injections, he will fall ill," says Naboko Araki, 31, a secretary and the proud mistress of a virtual pet. "Looking after him is a 24-hour job."

## Creature comfort in Italy's prisons

FROM RICHARD OWEN  
IN ROME

THE inmates of Italian jails are to be allowed to keep pets, provided they do not pose a threat to other prisoners (poisonous spiders) or supplement the diet (chickens).

Judge Michele Coiro, the director-general of prisons, has told the governors of all Italy's 210 jails that "small animals — such as fish or caged birds — may be admitted for the comfort of selected prisoners". Governors will decide which prisoners deserve the privilege and are capable of looking after pets properly.

"Murderous psychopaths and mafiosi in solitary confinement are obviously excluded," one prison officer said. "They will have to make do with the odd passing mouse."

Giuseppe Mellace, Governor of San Vittore prison in Milan, which holds many of the businessmen and politicians caught up in Italy's anti-corruption campaign, said the jail was already too crowded. "I don't see how we can possibly get parrots and fish into the cells," he said. "You can hardly breathe in there as it is."

Some British prisoners are allowed to keep budgerigars in their cells.

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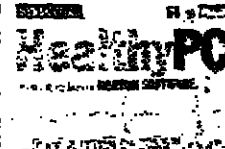
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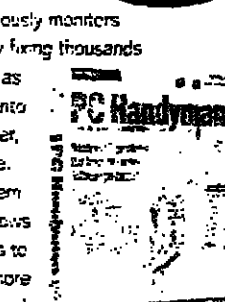
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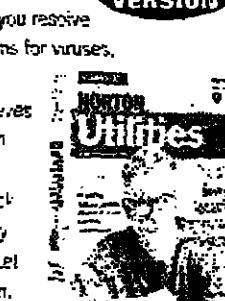
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## 5,000 cattle in Germany face 'mad cow' cull

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE Bonn Government yesterday authorised the slaughter of more than 5,000 cattle originating from Britain and Switzerland in an attempt to stamp out fears that "mad cow" disease was now endemic to Germany.

The measures — agreed at a crisis meeting of federal and regional ministers — were a response to the official confirmation that a German-born Galloway cow was suffering from BSE. The cow had a British mother and German scientists were quick to assert yesterday that this was proof of a vertical transfer of "mad cow" disease, from mother to calf.

"We have assumed such a transfer for a long time," said Thomas Schlöter of the Federal Institute for Veterinary Medicine in Berlin. "Now we feel that our suspicions have been confirmed." Hans Kretzschmar, professor of neuropathology at Göttingen University, agreed but said the problem was to determine how the transfer took place.

The politicians decided not to order the slaughter of calves until definite scientific evidence was found proving the vertical transfer of the disease. The cull involves 2,600 British cattle and 2,600 Swiss cows. "The point is to show that the consumer can continue to be sure that the meat on the market carries no risk," said Jochen Borchert, the Agriculture Minister. The Galloway cow was the fifth to die of BSE in Germany since 1992, and the first since 1994. Its shock value was high not only because of the possible health hazards, but also because it undermined the widely held belief that only British, or at a push Swiss, cows, posed a danger.

Now it has been found that a cow born in Germany has been affected, making a nonsense of the signs in every restaurant, supermarket and butcher's shop that beef for sale comes only from German

herds. Butchers — who reported a 20 per cent drop in beef consumption over the past year — resisted by drawing up genealogy charts worthy of a minor aristocrat, demonstrating no British animal had left a trace on the family tree of the displayed steaks.

There was sadness too in Germany as television showed at length the culling of the rest of the herd in Hötter, in North Rhine-Westphalia: nine cows were shot by vets with anaesthetic bullets and then injected with a fast-working poison. Their brains will be examined. Hans-Jürgen Mickus, a farmer who has been given police protection after threats from enraged local farmers, says he never fed the herd with animal-based fodder and used soy beans rather than ground-up sheep's brain to enrich the protein intake of the Galloways.

Since September 1990 no new cows have been exported to Germany from Britain. In February last year all beef imports from Britain were also stopped. Of the 3,400 animals that were imported before 1990, 400 have been slaughtered and their carcasses destroyed because they came from confirmed BSE-infected herds in England and Scotland. The rest have been put under very strict veterinary supervision and cannot be sold. Since August last year, the same has applied to their calves.

□ **The Hague:** The Dutch Government said a cow imported into The Netherlands with suspected "mad cow" disease entered the food chain in 1995, but it said the animal was healthy at the time of slaughtering. A nationwide hunt for the animal was sparked by confirmation on Tuesday of the first cow born in Germany with the disease. Dutch farm officials said they had been informed that the mother of the cow was probably exported to The Netherlands in 1995. (Reuters)

## Bulgarian leader in talks on crisis

By RICHARD OWEN

THE mood of Bulgarians who have been protesting in their thousands on the streets of Sofia for the past 16 days turned from anger to jubilation yesterday as Petar Stoyanov took over as President from Zhelyu Zhelev.

The 44-year-old conservative lawyer is seen as the man most likely to guide the country out of its economic crisis. Mr Stoyanov immediately began talks with the ruling Socialists — the former Communists — and the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) on how to restore stability and stave off economic collapse.

As he took over there were reports that Tudor Zhivkov, Bulgaria's 85-year-old former Communist dictator, may be released from house arrest. Mr Zhivkov has told visitors he hopes to play a role in reviving the country. Inflation is at more than 300 per cent, bread is scarce and an International Monetary Fund scheme to prop up the currency is in abeyance until order is restored.

Mikhail Dzhichev, the chief civil prosecutor, said he was "freeing" Mr Zhivkov from house arrest over his 1992 conviction on charges of embezzling \$25 million (£15 million) of state funds. But Valeri Parvanov, the chief military prosecutor, said Mr Zhivkov was still under house arrest in connection with other charges. □ **London:** Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, will meet President Stoyanov next week during a one-day visit to Bulgaria. (Michael Binyon writes.)



Stoyanov: fighting economic collapse



ERIC GALLARD / REUTER

## Hostage bank chief freed

Jérôme Meyssonier, the governor of the French bank Crédit Foncier, is led from his office yesterday by his employees. Protesting workers at the bank's Paris headquarters released senior

officials as well as the governor after holding them hostage for six days (Ben Macintyre writes). Union leaders

promised to continue the occupation of the building, however, in their protest over government plans to

break up the indebted property leader. M Meyssonier emerged looking none the worse for his imprisonment in his own office and even paid tribute to his captors' good sense.

## Spain retreats over Gibraltar

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

IN AN embarrassing diplomatic volte-face yesterday, Spain denied that it was shortly to withdraw recognition of British passports issued in Gibraltar, publicly guaranteeing "total freedom of movement" through its territory to citizens of the British colony.

The climbdown, a considerable setback for Abel Matutes, Spain's Foreign Minister, came as Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, visited Madrid for talks on the Rock. Señor Matutes emphasised at a press conference that Spain "had never contemplated in the past, nor will it ever contemplate in the future, the placing of impediments in the way of the rightful freedom of movement within the European Union of the people of Gibraltar."

This statement was clearly at odds with the Spanish Government's bluster earlier this month. In a letter to the British Embassy in Madrid, the Foreign Ministry had given warning that it was propos-

ing to treat as defunct a 1960 Anglo-Spanish visa-waiver treaty, under which Gibraltarians first acquired the right to travel freely through Spain. That threat sent an immediate wave of panic through Gibraltar, with residents fearing they would be "locked in".

British diplomatic sources said that yesterday's two-and-a-half-hour meeting — a resumption of the "Brussels process" under which British and Spanish Foreign Ministers meet annually to discuss Gibraltar — was dominated by the passport question. "There was a lot of very tough talking," an official said, "and we made it plain to Señor Matutes that there was no point in pursuing the Brussels process if Spain's reported threats were not officially withdrawn."

Sources reveal that Britain had warned Spain before Mr Rifkind's arrival that any interference in Gibraltarians' freedom of movement could lead to the European Court of Justice. Britain would almost

certainly have won. EU law experts said yesterday, as the Treaty of Rome guarantees Gibraltarians freedom of movement throughout the Union. Mr Rifkind yesterday declared himself "very satisfied" with the "important clarification" he had received from Señor Matutes.

The Spanish retreat will put further pressure on José María Aznar to sack Señor



Rifkind: "Satisfied with Spanish clarification"

Matutes in the spring, when the Prime Minister's first cabinet reshuffle is expected. Spanish political analysts have repeatedly criticised the Foreign Minister for indecision and lack of tactical sense, criticism that appears to have been borne out by the passport debate.

It has not been a good week for Señor Matutes. On Monday, after three Spanish medical workers had been murdered by Hutu rebels in Rwanda, he earned himself much derision in the Spanish press by calling for intervention in central Africa in the morning, only hours later, to describe such a move as "inappropriate and unhelpful".

The logic behind the passport threat is not immediately apparent. Coming on the eve of Mr Rifkind's visit, it served no purpose other than to raise the diplomatic temperature to just short of boiling point, and brought the angry withdrawal from the talks of Peter Caruana, Gibraltar's moderate Chief Minister.

## Roman site halts building project

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French Culture Ministry ordered a halt to building work in the southern city of Rodez yesterday after archaeologists went on strike, saying that important Roman archaeological remains were being destroyed with government approval.

Several hundred angry archaeologists marched through the streets of Rodez on Tuesday, saying that a housing project in the heart of the old Roman town, where building work started on January 13 with the personal approval of Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, was in "flagrant violation of legislation protecting the national heritage."

The project has long been the subject of bitter dispute between Jacques Vernhes, a local developer, and archaeologists, who say the site contains important Gallo-Roman remains, as well as the well-preserved ruins of a 13th-century medieval rampart.

Bowing to pressure from the 340 state archaeologists and the 1,500 who are employed by the Association for National Archaeological Excavations, Philippe Douste-Blazy, the Culture Minister, ordered the builders to halt work yesterday pending instructions from the Prime Minister.

The strikers promised to continue their action, however, citing fears that building work could start again. "This is not yet a victory," Jean-Emmanuel Gilibert, of the state archaeological service, said. The archaeologists say that M Juppé, overriding the concerns of government-employed experts, allowed M Vernhes, a Gaullist member of the local town council, to send in the bulldozers.

"Even more incredible, archaeologists at the Regional Archaeology Service in Toulouse were ordered not to object or invoke the law to stop the destruction of the archaeological remains," the archaeologists' unions said.

The archaeologists' strike is hardly on the same scale as the recent strike by lorry drivers, but the issue of protecting France's heritage is a highly emotive one that could further damage M Juppé's battered image.

## Pilots warned of hoax Brussels landing orders

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN BRUSSELS

AIRLINE crews approaching Brussels airport have been alerted to potentially dangerous radio instructions from a man posing as an air traffic controller.

The airport authority said the man, who has been broadcasting on a mobile radio from eastern Belgium since last October, had been using the standard

frequencies and the correct jargon to communicate with aircraft.

"He tells them how to land, the normal messages — a bit higher, a bit lower, a bit to the left, right, that kind of instructions," said a spokesman for the Brussels airport authority. "He can only have had intentions ... this could lead to accidents."

The man, who has so far evaded police, had caused confusion, but so far put no

aircraft in danger, he said. This was due to the practice in which pilots read back all instructions to ground controllers who should immediately recognise that they had not given the orders.

Air traffic has been subjected to numerous cases of interference by pirate radio operators in the United States, Britain and elsewhere in recent years as cheap portable aviation radios have come on to the market.

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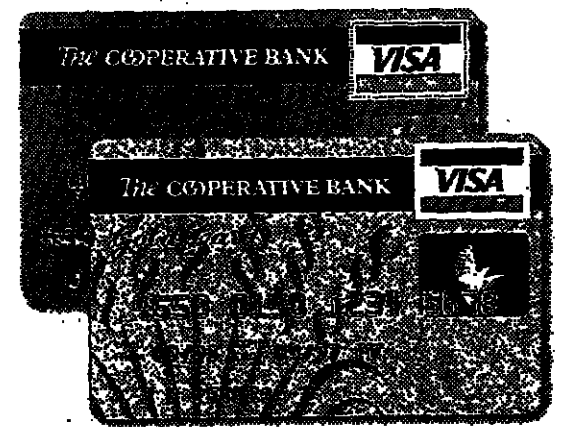
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# Swiss bank records aid Indian pursuit of guilty in arms bribery scandal

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS  
IN DELHI

SWITZERLAND has handed over secret bank records to India with the names of politicians who took huge bribes from Bofors, the Swedish arms manufacturer, a decade ago. The papers are political dynamite and are believed to incriminate some of the biggest

names in India. India entered a \$1.3 billion contract with Bofors for the supply of field guns and Bofors is known to have paid large sums to Indian politicians.

A sealed box of documents was handed over at the Swiss Justice Ministry in Bern to the Indian Ambassador to Switzerland. More documents are expected to be given later, but the first batch provides

most of the crucial information. The brown cardboard box, tied with red and white ropes, contains 500 bank documents as well as statements made by individuals questioned by Swedish prosecutors. The box is being carried back to India by Joginder Singh, director of India's Central Bureau of Investigation, who travelled to Bern to collect it.

"You can expect some action on this in less than a week," he said. "I guarantee that the guilty will not be allowed to go free. The real investigation begins now."

The Swiss courts allowed the papers to be handed over at the request of Indian prosecutors after ruling that the case involved corruption. There are suspicions that Indian authorities have been soft-

pedalling in order to protect famous politicians. Swiss investigators said there was enough information in the documents for prosecutions to begin.

Asked if he feared political interference with his investigations, Mr Singh said: "Have you seen any interference in my work so far?" Swiss prosecutors have recovered

lost jottings made by Martin Arbo, a former Bofors executive who negotiated the Bofors contract and the bribes, in which he said he was not concerned with the repercussions for most of the recipients of the "kickbacks" but he was worried about "Q" and his connections to "R".

with the affair was a close friend of Rajiv Gandhi, the late Indian Prime Minister, and his Italian-born widow, Sonia. A pledge to make payments of \$250 million to Indian individuals was included in the contract that Bofors made with India. The affair was exposed in the Indian press and in 1990, after Gandhi's electoral defeat.

## Mossad highlights war threat amid calls for Syria talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

MOSSAD, Israel's foreign intelligence agency, was quoted yesterday as saying that unless stalled peace negotiations with Syria were resumed soon, all-out war between the two countries was likely before the end of the year.

The warning was contained in the agency's 1997 Working Plan, which was given to Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, by his new chief spy-master, Danny Yatom. Details were made public for the first time yesterday in *Yediot Ahronot*, the Tel Aviv newspaper known for its intelligence contacts.

The newspaper said that Syria, with its newly acquired non-conventional missile capabilities, had this year become "the number one threat on the security establishment's agenda". The agency emphasised that the country had overtaken previous security threats — Iran, Iraq and international terrorism.

The dramatic change in Mossad's perception of the Syrian threat comes after the breakdown of peace talks between the two countries last March, when Islamic suicide attacks in Israel left more than 60 dead.

There were repeated warnings in the second half of last year caused by a redeployment of Syrian troops inside Lebanon and Israel's reaction along its northern border and on the occupied Golan Heights. In the climate created by last week's Israeli withdrawal from Hebron, intense efforts, involving America, Europe and Egypt, are being made to restart the talks.

Israel's concern has been fuelled by recent Syrian attempts to boost its weapons capability by massing advanced Scud missiles to launch chemical and biological attacks on Israeli targets.

The main obstacle to resumed talks is the Damascus insistence that the right-wing Israeli Government should first repeat a pledge that was made, Syria claims, by its Labour predecessor to hand back the whole of the Golan — a strategic plateau captured by Israel in 1967 — in exchange for peace.

Mr Netanyahu has played a much tougher hand than Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, refusing to make such a pledge in advance and by securing diplomatic backing from Warren Christopher, the outgoing US Secretary of State, in ruling that it was never formally given.

Asked if he would consider giving back some or all of the Golan, which overlooks the Sea of Galilee, in exchange for peace, Mr Netanyahu told *Channel 4 News* that he thought he should enter negotiations as President Assad of Syria would. "He demands all

of the Golan Heights. So do I. We view the Golan as a critical area for Israeli security. Our view has not changed."

Yesterday David Levy, the Israeli Foreign Minister, disclosed that he was exchanging messages with Damascus via an unnamed European intermediary. Later, in a direct appeal to Farouq al-Shara, the Syrian Foreign Minister, he said: "I am ready to meet you."

News of Mossad's fears coincided with reports that senior Israeli security officials have asked the United States to place additional restrictions on the accessibility of advanced weapons systems to Arab countries. Israel is concerned that its military advantage is slipping.

□ **Pretoria:** South Africa defused a foreign policy dispute yesterday, saying that it would consult Washington before making a decision on a big arms sale to Syria opposed by the United States and Israel. Political analysts said the move, taken at a Cabinet meeting and announced by Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, would lower the heat in a dispute where both sides seemed to have overplayed their hands.

The proposed sale to Syria of South African tank firing and guidance systems, which came to light via a leak of Cabinet papers this month, provoked a warning from Washington and an angry riposte from President Mandela. A spokesman said a final decision on whether to go ahead with bidding for the deal would be made at a future Cabinet meeting. (Reuters)



Yella, aged six, is taken by her father to a temple where she will become a handmaiden to the goddess Yellamma. Many girls end up as prostitutes

## Moonlight ritual leads to life of vice for children

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

THOUSANDS of pilgrims gathered in southern India yesterday to celebrate a Hindu goddess whose followers include an ancient cult that condemns children to prostitution.

Parents dedicated their girls, some as young as six, to become *devadasis* (handmaidens of god) to the goddess Yellamma. After a secret initiation ceremony an unknown number of children were taken to a temple in Saudati,

Karnataka, where annual full moon celebrations to Yellamma are held. Most pilgrims have nothing to do with the cult, which officially enrolls girls to become temple dancers but in practice forces them to become the sexual property of priests.

The cult, which has been legally banned, persists in pockets of the south.

The tasks assigned to *devadasis* traditionally included fanning temple idols, carrying a sacred light and singing and dancing for the deities inside the temple and in processions. The origin of the *devadasi* is obscure, but temple inscriptions referred to them almost 3,000 years ago.

They held high status because they were taught to read and write and were

accomplished in weaving and blending perfumes. Girls had to be given to the temple before puberty. Their status meant they were treated as sons under Hindu property law.

Yesterday, thousands of mud idols of the goddess lined roads packed with worshippers, most of whom had travelled for days. The goddess is popular among outcasts (*Dalits*) and low castes, who seek her protection. Becoming a *devadasi* used to be one of the only ways for a "backward" caste girl to rise out of poverty.

"We have been travelling for eight days but we will not marry our daughter to the goddess," said Kamala, a young mother travelling on a bullock cart.

Channarayana, a student from Bombay, said: "I am going to Saudati because it is the only place where I can tell the goddess my sorrows and my joys."

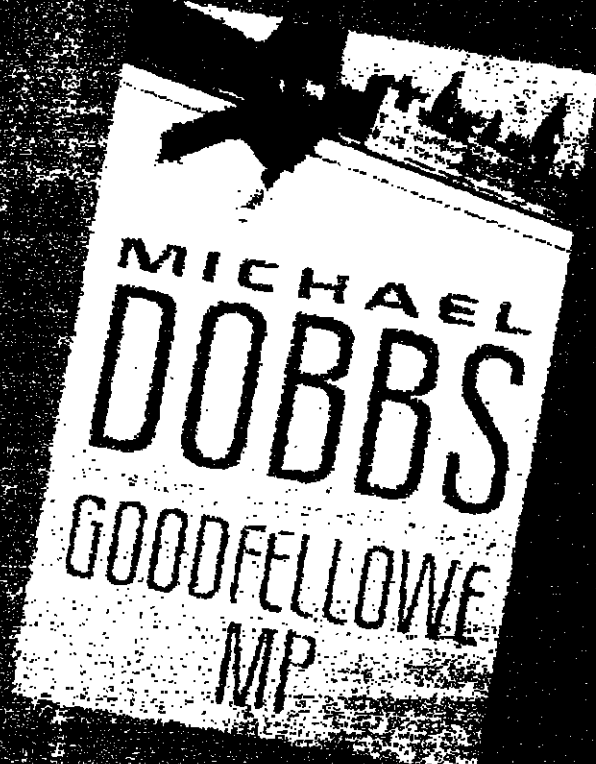
People chanting and screaming crowded round a sacred pool where they will bathe today before making a three-mile uphill trek to the temple. Women "possessed" by Yellamma, a manifestation of the goddess, were taken to the ground.

A least, in the night, the day, began after dark. Most of the girls who become *devadasis* — they are identified by their marked hair — will remain in the temple until puberty — they can expect to become prostitutes. Many end up in city brothels once the priests are bored with them.

Jayashree Ranaya, 45, who joined a government rehabilitation programme in the nearby city of Belgaum, to help victims of the cult, said she "used to cry when men started doing strange things to me when I was very young. I was with one priest for five years and after he got married I had to go with different men. I had no choice. I started begging and living on the streets of Belgaum."

The cult also recruits a small number of boys, known as *Jogappas*, who are forced to become transvestite prostitutes. The privately-funded Indian Health Organisation in Bombay estimates that 1,000 girls are dedicated to the goddess each year. Other groups put the figure much higher.

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## Susu shows off her son

Lopburi: Susu, an orang-utan whose "marriage" was televised in Thailand, has given birth to a 2lb 7oz male.

About 100 people had gathered at the zoo here for the birth, including Yongyuth Kitwattanasont, a local hotelier who brought Susu from Taiwan for a male orang-utan, Mike, and sponsored their wedding. He vows that when the infant is old enough, he will find a wife for him too.

Mother and son are now in a secluded cage. (AP)



Susu cradles her newborn son at Lopburi Zoo

## End inquiry, colony chief says

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE Hong Kong Government remained under siege yesterday as Anson Chan, Deputy Governor and Chief Secretary, said that there was no evidence that Lawrence Leung, the former Immigration Director, had been a Chinese "agent" or informer.

She called on the Legislative Council committee investigating his sudden retirement to drop the case because it was damaging the Government. In the face of leaks from officials in the colony and in London that Mr Leung had had covert dealings with China, Ms Chan said that he was forced

into retirement last year because of "a disregard" of regulations regarding financial disclosure and "there are no other grounds".

Ms Chan was appearing before the Legislative Council committee, which has been questioning officials about why, after 31 years' service, Mr Leung retired abruptly last July. Until Mr Leung admitted recently he was forced to resign, the Government had said that his departure had been at his request for "personal reasons".

Ms Chan said: "The Administration has not lost nor sought to shield this committee. She said that the officials had acted within the limits imposed by the rule of confidentiality, which was suddenly waived by Mr Leung. We were not trying to cover up."

Last week, K. Lam, Secretary for the Civil Service, who said originally that Mr Leung had accepted his resignation and asked to return to work, said that Mr Leung had been guilty of a "lack of integrity" and had been a "discredit" to the Government without action being taken.

## US warns Peking over reform of Hong Kong

Washington: The recent but steady improvement in Sino-American relations was thrust into uncertainty yesterday after the Clinton Administration issued its most severe warning to Peking over future government in Hong Kong (Tom Rhodes writes).

The State Department said Chinese plans to repeal parts of the Hong Kong Bill of Rights would seriously damage confidence in the region

after China assumes control of the British colony this summer.

"We believe this recommendation should be re-examined carefully against China's commitment to preserve human rights, freedom of the press, and individual freedoms in Hong Kong," said Nick Burns, the State Department spokesman.

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# 'Contraception. Have you ever heard of it?'

**M**r and Mrs Brown have money in the bank, a house with a swimming pool and two cars in the garage. The time has come to think about starting a family, so they settle into his-and-her wing chairs at opposite ends of their sitting room and embark on a rational discussion. The moment they come to an agreement, they close their eyes and make identical wishes, and presto! The egg that has been lurking inside Mrs Brown turns into an embryo.

That was the story I was given in the late Fifties when our teachers first introduced my classmates and me to the idea that sex and parenthood had nothing to do with each other. Even then, I knew there was something fishy about the glossy illustrations in the book they used. Mr and Mrs Brown looked so grim in their wing chairs. Why couldn't they relax, I wanted to know, and how exactly did the egg find out they had made identical wishes? I knew there had to be another piece in the jigsaw, but because no one was willing to tell me, I gave up asking questions and bought the official version.

It wasn't until I was ten or eleven that I heard from a friend's elder sister that eggs were not fertilised by wishes; by then it was too late. My brain had been washed clean of all its scepticism. While I could just about accept the idea that men had something to do with conception, I knew my friend's sister had to be lying when she spelt out the details. I just couldn't see my parents, or any other parents, for that matter, getting that excited about each other.

Procreation was too serious a business for there to be any pleasure in it. So I insisted to my friends when I was 11 and 12 and so our sex education teachers seemed to confirm throughout secondary school.

When I left home for university in 1970 and found myself surrounded by people enthusing about the pleasures sex promised if you removed the possibility of babies, it didn't sound the least bit revolutionary. To those of us educated by the immaculate Mr and Mrs Brown, it was a truth we held to be self-evident. One day we would become like them — rational, responsible, joyless, sexless. The prospect made it all the more important that we had as much fun as possible before we saddled ourselves with wing sets and wing chairs. Alas, it was not as easy to

## ASPECTS OF LOVE

In Part Four of our series, **Maureen Freely** finds sex does not end with babies

escape their influence as we had originally hoped. Sexual freedom, like Brown-style family planning, was a privilege you earned by being your own most paranoid police-woman.

There was an enemy inside you. You couldn't let your guard down for a second. If you didn't remember to take that Pill every morning, if you so much as thought there was such a thing as a safe day for unprotected intercourse, you were courting disaster. But if you did exercise the right sort of vigilance before you had sex, you usually didn't relax in time to get any pleasure out of it at all.

Well, at least that's my excuse, anyway. I didn't have much fun during the sexual revolution. I was too busy making sure my body didn't betray me and ruin my life.

Perhaps this is why I was the first of my classmates to give up trying. By the time I was 24, I was married — and worried that I was infertile because I didn't conceive the moment I went off the Pill. A year later, I was pregnant and sure I was going to have a miscarriage. When I didn't, I went on to have nightmares about spina bifida, stillbirth and pre-eclampsia.

**T**hen came the real nightmare of labour. Not only did I fail to turn pain into pleasure by doing the right kind of breathing, I failed in front of more strangers than I could count. I had always been the sort of person who talked wild but actually needed many months and dimmed lights before I could reveal all to a carefully chosen someone. Now it seemed as if every passerby wearing the right sort of doctor's coat had the right to come in and do an internal examination to find out how badly my labour was progressing. At one point I think I had

the entire board of midwives in there with me. They didn't look at my face. They had eyes for one thing and one thing only, and they were not impressed. The truth was out I thought, now everyone knew I was a fraud. So imagine my shock when I discovered I had produced a baby with ten perfect fingers and ten unparalleled toes.

It was at this point that I stopped thinking of my body as a juvenile delinquent in need of constant medication. I could afford to let my guard down from time to time, and when I did, I found more pleasure than I had ever dared

**'I found more pleasure than I had ever dared fake'**

fake. Oh, yes, there were the usual deterrents — the leaking breasts that made me feel like a cow, and the sagging post-natal folds of flesh that did not make me feel like a centre-fold, there was the unwanted company — I don't think anything can ruin an erotic mood faster than rolling across a bed into a sleeping toddler. It is not much better if they keep to their beds. If you have to get up in medias res to attend to a child with a nightmare in another room, you may be giving your partner more suspense than he can take. And if you have to get up five times a night for months on end, you can reach the point where even the thought of sex makes you want to fall asleep.

And yes, there were the scheduling problems if you tried to give yourself a break from those windows of opportunity quickies, which would have been furthest if you had been able to keep your eyes open. Alas, it was often so exhausting to make the childcare arrangements for that much-needed weekend without the little ones, that by the time you got to the hotel on the Friday night, the one and only thing your heart desired was a duvet and a nice soft pillow. But things always looked different by Saturday. The facts of life with

children never quite managed to take away the pleasure I got from finally feeling at home in my body — or take the intoxication out of the discovery that sex you enjoyed could result in a baby you loved.

Is this why I've ended up with so many? I always balk when people ask me that. I point out how terrible it would have been for my son to be an only child, and how lucky I was to have a daughter four years later. I say what a good thing it was that I didn't get sterilised after that even though I had no plans to have any more, because when I met someone new after my divorce, it was the new baby who made us into a family. I say it would have been a shame to stop there, because she deserved a playmate.

**S**till, the hospital family planning nurse must have seen the glint in my eyes when I was cradling my fourth and last baby. She wasn't quite as sharp with me as she was with a friend who had just given birth to her fifth: she didn't go so far as to say: "Contraception. Have you ever heard of it?" But her lectures about my responsibilities to the living were stinging and irrefutable, so I've seen the light, and gone back to constant vigilance, even though they don't sound like the right words anymore.

In the beginning, I worried that it would take the zing out of things. When you have enjoyed years of lying in bed after sex, wondering what unique creature you may have inadvertently conceived, it is hard to go back to pills, threads, caps, condoms, and the dull certainty that you have created no one.

That is, it's hard until you find out how much more there is to "protected" sex than you could have imagined when you were young and unattached but living in mortal fear of accidental pregnancy — even with someone as familiar as the father of your children, even if he's not quite the same shape as when you first met him. Even if you aren't either, it is strange to be finding out so late in life that trust is not always a libido killer.

I'm glad that life still holds surprises, but I do wish I had had some inkling in earlier life that sex wasn't going to end forever when babies appeared. Surely even Mr and Mrs Brown had some fun after they escaped the tyranny of their wing chairs. The time has come to expose their happy secret.

● Maureen Freely's *The Other Rebecca* is published by Bloomsbury, price £14.99



"I didn't have much fun during the sexual revolution. I was too busy making sure my body didn't betray me"

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# The peoples of Europe must speak

Malcolm Rifkind says our EU partners can be won over

It is time to take the debate on Europe to Europe, and I intend to do so over the next few weeks. Those who press for more EU integration need to say where the limits of integration lie. And we must consider the crucial question of how to accommodate both those who want more integration and those who do not.

I want the British message to reach further than the chambers of Europe. This is a debate for the peoples of Europe, not just for the governments. I want the citizens of Europe to understand the sort of Europe we are seeking. We believe that the British Government's idea of Europe is in tune with the British people. And we also believe that many of the peoples of Europe share our aspirations. We want our modern vision of Europe to be understood for what it is: the way to sustain the European ideal in the long term.

Though some of our traditions may differ from those of other member states, the essential interests remain the same. We and our European partners share the same goals of security and prosperity for our citizens. Although we have all the characteristics of an island nation, Britain is part of the European tradition. We are committed to a European identity because only through co-operation in Europe can we best promote the interests of the British people. This means making the most of our European Union membership.

We do not see a Manichean choice between a federal Europe and nothing. Many people across Europe would agree. Many of us feel that the debate has become too polarised between stark choices of in or out. There is a third way. Britain believes that the European Union is, and must remain more than a free trade area. In many areas, the benefits of regional co-operation are unarguable, indeed compelling. The case for regional measures, regionally enforced, to tackle pollution across boundaries is obvious. The EU is a powerful actor in the arena of international trade. Here again, we have common interests where a united approach pays dividends. We all want Europe's voice in the world to be strengthened.

Britain has lots of ideas about how to improve the functioning of our common foreign and security policy. No one questions the pressing need for us to develop the closest possible inter-governmental co-operation against international crime, drugs and terrorism. These are all concerns close to the hearts of our peoples. They all agree that we must act together to deal with them.

But we do not and will not believe in a European super-state. The future lies between the two poles of federalism and a free trade area. Britain's view is that the best future for us all lies in a partnership of nations, where Europe concentrates single-mindedly on what needs to be done at a European level, and does it well. We support co-operation that focuses on lifting the prosperity, quality of life and security of our citizens. It is their interest that should guide us. I am sure General de Gaulle had the same interests

in mind when he envisaged a "Europe des patries". Most people still expect that decisions affecting them should be taken by domestic politicians, speaking their language and accountable to them. They understand that there is a need for supranational rules to make sure that, for example, the single market functions freely. But they want supranational measures kept to a minimum. Further integration should be pursued only where it makes sense, not for its own sake. It makes sense when there is an identifiable gain for our citizens, when they will be materially better off or safer as a result of further integration. Anything else is ideology for its own sake.

These ideals are as relevant to ordinary Frenchmen, Germans and Italians as to the people of Britain. It is clear that tens of millions of people throughout Europe are determined as we are to build a Europe based on partnership, but who like us are uneasy with and unimpressed by the desire to supplant the nation-state as the building block of Europe. Such concerns were expressed in the Maastricht referendums in Denmark and France, in opinion polls in Germany and in voter apathy in European Parliament elections across the continent.

These concerns need to be heard. For too long the debate has been conducted between politicians with occasional contributions from academics, diplomats and journalists. In future it must involve the whole adult population.

Europe is better educated and more sophisticated than ever before. Modern communications, television and travel allow public issues to be the preserve not only of an élite, but of society as a whole. The new diplomacy cannot be just for diplomats; it must reach out and involve the whole public.

Nowhere is this truer than in regard to the EU's future. The negotiations in the Council of Ministers, in the Commission and in the European Council are not comparable to the diplomacy of the past. They are not simply about relations between states or disputes about territory or issues of peace or war. Europe has gone beyond that — forever, I hope. Today, the negotiations are about matters that directly affect the life of every citizen. They are negotiations about jobs, trade, our environment and our quality of life. Because these issues affect everyone, the debate cannot be left to the political class alone.

This is why Britain believes in a much wider popular debate, so that the aspirations, ideals and concerns of Europe's citizens are made clear. We shall then have a solid basis for progress.

So I shall travel to Europe to spell out in detail our ideas. In particular I shall focus on how to tackle the vital challenges of building a flexible Europe, ready for enlargement. Our ideas reflect the patchwork of traditions that make up the experience of the EU's members. Our vision builds on diversity, instead of seeking to eradicate it.

The author is the Foreign Secretary.

This man breached enemy lines on 21 January 1997 at 10.00 hrs in a high-risk operation to blow their cover. His reward has been the opprobrium of many in his own regiment....



# Liberty and the Lords

The Police Bill is illiberal, and the Government's defeats were salutary

On Monday I went to the House of Lords to listen to the debate on the report stage of the Police Bill. The Government resisted two amendments, one from Labour and one from the Liberal Democrats, which would require prior approval by a commissioner or judge before the police could bug or burgle. The Government utterly lost the debate on the merits of the amendment. It lost both the votes, with 29 Conservative peers, three former Home Secretaries and ten law lords voting for the amendments. I voted against the Government on both: the Labour amendment was carried by 204 votes to 143; the Liberal Democrat, which I thought was better, by 153 votes to 137.

The situation addressed by the Police Bill is indeed disgraceful. For many years the police have been unlawfully bugging and burgling people's homes — the practice seems to have begun in the early 1970s. In the latest recorded year there were no fewer than 1,300 unlawful police intrusions known to the Home Office. The files on many of these bugging expeditions have been lost. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, rightly said that the police could not be allowed to continue this unlawful activity, though he wrongly supposed it to be lawful. He therefore decided to bring it under a new statute. As he has no natural sympathy for the liberty of the subject, he proposed that any chief constable should be free to authorise police bugging and burglary in pursuit of serious crime. Surprisingly, this was initially supported by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary's almost equally illiberal shadow in the House of Commons.

Two organisations, Liberty and Justice, started the campaign against this part of the Bill. The case was powerfully argued by a law lord, Lord Brown-Wilkinson. It has also been admirably fought as a matter of principle by Lord Rodgers, who led the Liberal Democrats on the Bill. Everyone accepts, however reluctantly, that electronic surveillance of serious criminals is absolutely necessary in modern conditions: the argument is concerned purely with the form of supervision and particularly with whether independent approval should be sought before rather than after the event.

Even the Government felt some pressure. On Monday, Lady Blanch produced a government amendment. On that, Lord Lloyd, another law lord, commented sharply: "I say nothing about the government

amendment since it achieves nothing." Both the Labour and the Liberal Democrat amendments do require prior authorisation, but cross-bench speakers in the debate generally preferred the Liberal Democrat amendment which simply requires prior approval from an appropriate judge. A leading former barrister, Lord Alexander of Weedon, summed up the case for prior judicial approval in a quotation from the Supreme Court of the United States: "The primary reason for the requirement of the judicial warrant is to interpose a neutral and detached magistrate

between the citizen and the officer engaged in the often competitive enterprise of ferreting out crime." These votes for the liberty of the citizen made one of the best days of the House of Lords. As members of a second chamber, the Lords have a special duty to protect the rights of citizens from invasion by state power. The House of Lords is also the ultimate Court of Appeal in the British judicial system and has a special responsibility to protect the legal process as such. On Monday both of these duties were admirably carried out. No one who listened to the debate could doubt the authority of many of those who spoke in favour of the amendments. The voters were decisive. As Parliament is close to a general election it will not be open to the Government to overrule the House of Lords, even if the House of Commons should be willing to do so.

When the time comes to consider the future rights of hereditary peers to vote in the Lords, this debate may be used in defence of the existing system. It will be argued that the House of Lords does, after all, work effectively as a second chamber, with the ability to deny the government legislation it wants in the form it prefers. Unfortunately the voting pattern of the hereditary peers did not match that of the House as a whole. I have not tried to distinguish the hereditary barons from the life barons; a glance at the division list on the Labour amendment shows how the senior ranks of the hereditary peers voted. No duke voted on either

side. Two marquesses voted for the Labour amendment, including the Marquess of Bath, who may be thought eccentric but usually votes on the side of the angels; three marquesses voted against. The earls voted by 18 to 17 for the amendment; the earls at least had a narrow majority in favour of liberty. The viscounts did not. They voted by 12 to 8 against the amendment; there is nothing very liberal about them. Taken together, the senior ranks of the hereditary peerage voted by 32 to 23 against giving prior judicial protection before the police can bug or burgle. They did so because too many of them take the Tory whip, and put that ahead of the constitution. The idea that hereditary peers, however obscure, are some sort of jury of the nation and will spring to the defence of liberty when the drum sounds is not supported by their voting record. If the hereditary peers were more independent-minded, they would be more likely to survive.

William Rees-Mogg

The vote did however reflect some real affinities of belief. I found myself going into the lobby, on both occasions, with people of very different politics. I know that I share. We all believe that liberty is the core value of politics, without which nothing else matters. Among those who voted for both amendments I found at least 20 people with whom I share this faith, even when we agree on little else. I would have been amazed on a matter of liberty not to be voting with Shirley Williams whom I have been agreeing with on these matters, while disagreeing on others, since our Oxford days. As against the 20 or more voting for the amendment whom I already thought of as among the good guys, I was only surprised by one unexpected vote in the Government's favour. I would not have expected Lord Chiltern, a scholarly man of genuine liberal sympathies, to be voting against amending the Home Secretary's Bill. To have him against us was comparable to the support that the historian Edward Gibbon gave to

Lord North over American policy. Labour as a party still does not pass this litmus test of liberty. I fear that the Labour leadership in the House of Lords was really not much good. Near the end of the debate there was a miserably embarrassing intervention by Lord McIntosh of Haringey, who had himself moved the Labour amendment. He stated: "I have to advise the noble lord, Lord Rodgers, and his friends that, because I believe that their amendment is so fundamentally defective, I cannot support it if the Question on it is put subsequent to that on my amendment, and that I shall ask my noble friends to join me in not supporting it."

This was contemptible, because it meant that the peer who had actually proposed the Labour amendment did not understand that the constitutional issue was an overriding one. Fortunately, more substantial figures for the Labour Party, Lord Callaghan, Lady Castle, Lord Healey, Lord Merlyn Rees rejected this mean-spirited advice and voted for the Liberal amendment without hesitation. I suppose the Labour front bench was trying to save Jack Straw's illiberal face, but that is known beyond saving.

There are a number of important conclusions to be drawn from this debate and from the votes. The first is that a second chamber with power to defend British liberties is essential. The second is that the House of Lords, as at present constituted, are sometimes do the job, though not consistently as the noble lords and third is that the law lords are invaluable when it comes to setting legal issues. The third is that the hereditary peers are too willing to put the Tory whip of the House of Lords. If they are to survive, they should look back at this vote as a milestone on the road to abolition. The fifth is that the House of Lords is not suited to become the House of the Conservative Party, since all true Conservatism must be based on the defence of liberty. The sixth is that Labour still has an authoritarian element. Lord McIntosh showed grotesque misjudgment in asking Jim Callaghan, Denis Healey and Barbara Castle not to vote as their consciences dictated. The final conclusion is more reassuring. The old liberal tradition, which runs through all parties, the cross-benchers and the law lords, has not died. It happened every day of the week, even in the House of Lords.

# Labour squeezes Scotland

Councils are cross with Brown, says Magnus Linklater

There was a visible sag in the councillor's shoulders. He had been listening to Gordon Brown being interviewed on the Today programme about Labour's intention to hold down tax and limit public expenditure. The phrase "no new spending commitments" hung heavy in the air. For the first time he could remember, a Labour government-in-waiting had forsaken its historic aim of achieving social equality by raising taxes. "What really worries me," he said, "is this isn't about winning an election any longer. I think they actually believe those things."

Nowhere is more expected of a Labour victory than in the chambers of local councils. Cut, capped, and castigated as bureaucratic dinosaurs, they have been unforgotten for so long that they have almost forgotten what it is like to enjoy a working relationship with government, rather than to be on the receiving end of a fiscal cane. It has long been an article of faith, even in some Tory-controlled areas, that Labour will bring to an end the grim war of attrition waged against local authorities by successive administrations. Now even this hope is being extinguished. The councillor I was speaking to was in Inverness, but he might just as well have been in Plymouth or Portswallow. "No one was expecting buckets of extra money from Gordon Brown," he said. "But we did think there might at least be a change of atmosphere. Now I'm beginning to wonder."

In Scotland, where there is still a high expectation of public services and what they deliver, the debate between new and old Labour has intensified as a result. To an extent that would be virtually unthinkable in the Home Counties, support for traditional old Labour values seems to be growing. Signs of distinct concern emerged last weekend, when news surfaced of a "network" group of pro-Labour supporters, funded to drum up enthusiasm for the new Labour gospel in Scotland. Despite the Scottish credentials of the Shadow Chancellor and his leader, there is probably more suspicion about their intentions in Scotland, Labour's heartland, than anywhere south of the border. Support for Blair "has always been conditional on improved public services and Scottish home rule. So far there has not been convincing evidence that either is guaranteed."

Confidence in Labour's devolution proposals was dented when the leadership decided there would be a referendum before a Scottish parliament could be introduced. Now the ambitions for what can be achieved in public services are also being narrowed. My Inverness councillor, faced with spending cuts of around 7 per cent this year. He now has to recognise that these are unlikely to be reversed under a Labour government. "Vote for us and things will be much the same as they are now," he says. "It's not a winning strategy."

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, has always argued that counter-revolution is being undermined, are inefficient and wasteful, top-heavy in management, bureaucratic in approach. He claims that local government in Scotland, reorganised into single tier authorities last year, benefited from an increase of £60 million in funding in 1997-98, bringing the total to £5.33 billion. This is 42 per cent more per head than in England, and 29 per cent more than in Wales. Local authority spending now accounts for 37 per cent of the total Scottish Office budget. Can it survive at this level, even under a Labour government? It was, of course, Mr Forsyth's own realisation that helped push the expenditure up in the first place, but when the costs of a Scottish parliament are added in, the bill for running Scotland is going to look formidable — just the kind that Chancellor Brown will want to run his slide-rule over as he prepares his first budget.

No one is suggesting that because of this party's support will be withdrawn, this side of an election. Decisions, however, are bound to surface later in the event of a Labour victory, when questions will be asked about how promises can be delivered without the means to pay for them. Devotion and compassion remain Labour watchwords, and in Scotland they tend to translate into spending on unemployment, education and the health service. Expectations for all of these remain high, despite all Mr Brown's warnings.

There is, however, one chink of light, a contract that might still be offered to ensure a productive partnership between Labour and its traditional supporters in local government. The one thing that councils have always lacked is stability, a settled financial programme, allowing them to plan their future over a sensible period — say, three years — rather than being buffeted by changing plans from year to year. If government expects its local authorities to behave in a business-like manner, it should treat them like businesses, giving them responsibility for running their affairs without interference, and giving them the time in which to do it.

# Inside track

POLITICIANS who have never had a career outside politics receive a headbutt from Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, in the latest issue of Prospect. In an article entitled "The Whig Illusion", he argues that while most criticism of the House of Commons is excessive, all is still not perfect in our parliamentary system.

"The Palace of Westminster is thronged with eager young men and women who have done nothing but politics all their lives," writes Hurd, who is becoming ever more forthright in his views, now that retirement from Parliament is in sight. "The highly professional politician is particularly vulnerable to the single-issue and the pressure group. They have not learnt in practical work-a-day careers how to balance conflicting interests before they reach a decision. A minister should complement the analytical skills of the permanent officials. He should not be an official with an ideology." Hurd's comments can be seen as a sledgehammer in the ribs for such prominent career politicians as Michael Portillo, who has spent

only three years of his life in non-political jobs, and Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, who joined the Conservative Research Department after university and never looked beyond.

David Lidington, the MP for Aylesbury since 1992, who has spent most of his career in political



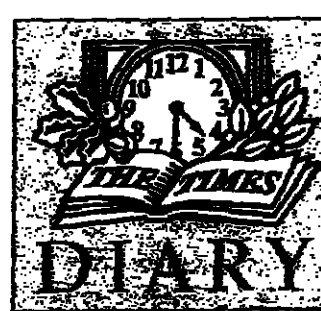
Don't forget our motto: "Who dares may not get his regimental dinner"

jobs and for a time was Hurd's special adviser, said he preferred not to comment on these remarks.

Relief for any women panicked by the thought of fashion dictating that they should wear Alexander McQueen's off-the-nipple dress, as modelled by Eva Herzigova, the Wonderbra girl, in his show for Gishenchy on Sunday. The night-gazing effect was a mistake. "The design is supposed to be a mistake," says McQueen from his atelier, "but Eva's are too big and they just popped out as she sashayed down."

# On parade

LEARNING FAST from the Carol Thatcher school for political offspring, Karenna Gore, the 23-year-old daughter of the American Vice-President Al Gore, has been writing of life at the centre of power for the online magazine Slate, where she is an editorial assistant. After Monday's presidential inauguration, she recalls the last time round: "I remember feeling so awkward talking to Marilyn Quayle that I panicked and launched into a story about how my dog couldn't lose weight." This time, she says of the White



House parade: "I tried to vary my wave: a little Miss America style, a little childish flapping over and down, and then the flagging-down-a-rescue-plane method, which is really only a salute to the building-top crowd."

Miss Gore, who has never suffered for her looks like Chelsea Clinton, is widely expected to feature in the first White House wedding since the Nixon era.

Last week in Central London, a hirsute man clearly possessed of means was spotted pulling over in his car and doling out piping-hot oatmeal soup to hungry beggars. It was the pop singer George Michael, quietly going about his good work. "He's humble," says his publicist, "and does not want any more attention drawn to the mat-

ter." Enough to say that he offers easily the most stylish meals on wheels in town.

# Stage right

GREAT NEWS for Gilbert and Sullivan fans: the Savoy Group, bought up by Granada last year, is handing over control of the Savoy Theatre, which sits next to its hotel, to real theatre people. Built by Richard D'Oyly Carte in 1881, it is said to be a dead weight on the Savoy Group's books, and will now be entrusted to Sir Stephen Waley-Cohen, who runs the Victoria and Vaudeville theatres in London.

This will cheer the Wontner family, owners of the Savoy Group for generations, who made the money to build their first hotel from the theatre profits. Giles Wontner, the theatre's chairman, is expected to be closely involved in future. Sheridan Morley is looking forward to a return of top-class G&S to the recently restored theatre. "It would be magnificent to have it back in Wontner hands," he says. "They have such sympathy for it." Late news: After Lord Gowrie's wiggling from Kenneth Baker and Parliament's other G&S fans, the D'Oyly Carte will today receive its first ever Arts Council grant.



Michael: good Samaritan

There are no doubts in John Major's mind about the outcome of the election, to judge from a written answer he gave to Sir Anthony Durant's question about which minister would be at John's special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the environment. "I will be attending," replied the PM.

P.H.S.





## LAW AND THE MAN

A crucial test for C. H. Tung, Patten's successor in Hong Kong

Deng Xiaoping, China's all-powerful paramount leader, is said at every level of the Chinese Government to have settled all argument about Hong Kong's future under Chinese sovereignty. In a constantly quoted speech, he said that there could be only two ways forward, "one peaceful, the other non-peaceful". Since "reluctant acceptance" by Hong Kong of Chinese rule "would lead to a chaotic situation", he said, Hong Kong must retain its own institutions and way of life for the 50 years it would take China to become a developed country, open to and integrated with the international community. Under this policy of "one country, two systems" it was, he implied, China rather than Hong Kong that would eventually change.

This was the basis on which Britain and China negotiated the handover that takes place this July; his words also underpin the treaty pledges that foreign affairs and defence aside, Hong Kong will continue to run its own affairs. China's own official handbook on the operation of its Basic Law for post-1997 Hong Kong adds more detail, specifying that the Hong Kong government will have autonomy not just in financial matters, but in "culture", "public order and entry and exit controls".

The question has always been whether China's doctrinally and instinctively authoritarian leaders properly understood the meaning of autonomy. Now, before China resumes sovereignty, Hong Kong has received a troubling, if not yet final, answer. A legal panel of the Preparatory Committee, appointed by China to oversee the transition, has proposed drastic revisions to Hong Kong laws dealing with public order, its political institutions, political activity and freedom of assembly and even data protection. These would not only repeal the electoral reforms, including voting rights, introduced by Chris Patten; they would emasculate the 1991 Bill of Rights which brings Hong Kong law in line with the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Freedom to form political or other associations, to hold peaceful demonstrations, to assemble in groups of more than 20 or even to use a loud-hailer would be drastically curtailed. The final decisions, moreover, are to rest not with Hong Kong's legislature — even though after July it will no longer be the present elected assembly but another body handpicked by China — but with the Chinese National People's Congress. To protests by Britain, the US and Hong Kong legislators, the Chinese government retorts that this is an "internal matter".

This confronts Tung Chee-hwa, the shipping magnate designated as the first chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), with decisions of the sort he would almost certainly have preferred to avoid until well after the handover. There is little either in the manner of his selection or his public pronouncements to date that suggests an eagerness to defend Hong Kong's treaty-based rights to manage its own affairs. But he is now under intense pressure, in Hong Kong and abroad, to speak out. He claims to want Hong Kong to overtake Tokyo as Asia's leading financial centre, but that ambition must rest on the vigorous defence of its legal system.

Neither as the Chinese patriot he takes pride in being, nor as a man out to project Hong Kong as a modern international city, can he use the defence that many of these laws used to be on the old colonial statute books. If he swallows Peking's dubious argument that it is only ensuring that Hong Kong laws conform with the Basic Law, he will severely damage confidence among foreign investors and in the territory itself. If he does not, his honeymoon with the Chinese authorities could end almost before it has begun. But his course should be clear. Swayed by the certainty that tampering with Hong Kong laws and rights will damage China's reputation as much as it does Hong Kong's prospects; he should not hesitate to cite Deng Xiaoping in the cause of freedom, prosperity and common sense.

## BRITANNIA II

A new yacht should be built — but why not in a new way?

As a symbol of the nation, the Royal Yacht *Britannia* has been a conspicuous success. For countless foreign visitors she has meant the best of Britain: an understated but faultless style, an immaculate crew, and a grandeur born from association with the Royal Family. The Government is right to have decided to replace the venerable vessel when she is decommissioned later this year.

Not to have done so would have constituted an insult to the Queen. It would also have been against this country's best interests: invitations to visit *Britannia* when she docks at ports overseas are much prized. Her decks and state rooms are uniquely suited as venues for foreign businessmen and politicians to meet representatives from Britain. It is always difficult to say precisely where any export deal is finally done: but *Britannia* is claimed to contribute to some £500 million of exports each year. Although her contribution to the prestige of this country abroad cannot be measured in monetary terms alone, her value to exports alone makes a replacement worthwhile. The question is whether the Government has chosen the right kind of successor, financed in the right way.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, has chosen to meet the £60 million cost entirely from taxpayers' money. At a time when complaints about the "extravagance" of the Royal Family have become as regular

as they are shrill, this seems unwise. From a government dedicated both to the private sector and to value for money, it seems very odd. Nor does it seem necessary.

Several consortia have already approached the Ministry of Defence and Buckingham Palace with offers to replace *Britannia* at no public cost. One or two can be dismissed as not suitably regal. But one inspiring and exciting plan from the Cadland Consortium, headed by Maldwyn Drummond, Commodore of the Royal Yacht Squadron, was put forward last year. This would create a majestic, square-rigged sailing ship more eye-catching than any motorised yacht.

As befits a ship for the 21st century, it was proposed that she be as at ease with engines as with wind power, her rig computer-controlled and her hull made of steel. In appearance she would dwarf, both in scale and beauty, any international competitor.

It was intended that she would also function as a sail-training ship, playing host to some 3,500 "Queen's Cadets" a year, of all backgrounds, who would learn how to sail and how to work with great precision as a team. Instead, the Government has gone for a traditional and expensive option, surprising both its own supporters who preferred a private alternative and the Labour party who may yet cause the scheme trouble in the future.

## OFF CAMERA

A successful means of road safety must be kept alive

Since their introduction in the early 1990s, speed cameras seem to have been effective in reducing road accidents. Motorists have been deterred from illegal speeds by the flash of the roadside camera and the knowledge that a fine will shortly arrive in the post, backed up by the photographic evidence. In some areas accidents have fallen by up to a third; in one experiment in West London fatalities were down 70 per cent. In almost all areas where notices warn drivers that cameras are in operation, average speeds are lower, driving habits are better and traffic flow is smoother.

A police report admitting that thousands of offenders are now escaping prosecution because the police cannot afford to process the records of the offences is, therefore, all the more shocking. What is the point of installing the £20,000 cameras if they are not used? The fact that some were merely dummies and others were occasionally switched off did not matter as long as the uncertainty deterred speeding. But if motorists know that all the cameras are out of action, or that police delay processing the film in order to miss the 14-day limit on prosecutions, the law and the road safety campaigns are unenforceable.

The police say they have neither the money nor the manpower to operate the cameras. They cannot recoup the costs from the £40 fixed fines, as the money, along with all proceeds from criminal prosecutions, goes to the Treasury. They cannot increase manpower unless chief constables divert hundreds of officers from the prevention of violence or the investigation of burglary to the work of tracing and notifying offenders.

They cannot privatise the camera operations as decisions on prosecution can only be conducted by the police.

There is something ridiculous here. However unpopular the notion of Big Brother cameras, however speeding motorists may rejoice at getting away with it, no one believes that a law that saves lives should be so cavalierly mocked. One police force, it emerges, once abandoned all camera enforcement. Even more absurd is the revelation that although it costs far more to take offenders to court than levy a fixed penalty, some forces prefer the more expensive route. In court they can sometimes recoup their expenses, and court cases are taken into account when the Lord Chancellor's office fixes their level of funding.

Suggested remedies include allowing the police to keep a portion of the fines imposed or insisting that convicted motorists also pay additional administrative costs. That latter seems manifestly unjust, unless the £40 fine itself is seen as too low. But the Treasury, ever vigilant in fighting off attempts to ring-fence any taxes, fines or levies, adamantly opposes the former.

One answer would be to make the system self-financing. If camera records are sufficiently accurate, their enforcement could be the responsibility of the local authorities which already operate parking restrictions in co-operation with the police. Speed cameras should not be a victim of their own success. There is scope to adjust the leeway in triggering the convicting photograph. But to switch off the cameras altogether is to switch off a serious and successful attempt to improve Britain's road safety.

## Business concern on minimum pay

From Sir Stanley Kalms, Chairman of Dixons Group plc, and others

Sir, We would welcome an opportunity to comment on the agenda for British business set out in the report *Promoting Prosperity* by the Commission on Public Policy and British Business (reports and leading article, January 22).

In our view, the commission's decision to call for a national minimum wage and adoption of the social chapter cannot be justified by any considered economic assessment.

A minimum wage would inevitably lead to job losses in many smaller companies. The Department of Trade and Industry estimate that a minimum hourly wage set at £4.15 would cost 950,000 British jobs with half restoration of wage differentials and 1.8 million with full restoration.

It is clear that a commitment to the social chapter would mean more inflexible, prescriptive employment law. As British manufacturers face serious challenges from the emerging economies of Asia and the Pacific Rim it is essential to safeguard our competitiveness. Business opposition to the social chapter was reaffirmed only this month in an Institute of Directors' survey (Business, News in brief, January 6).

We in the retail industry entirely reject Professor George Bain's contention that his commission's recommendations would be good for British business.

Yours faithfully,  
STANLEY KALMS,  
Chairman, Dixons Group plc.  
JOHN HOERNER,  
Chief Executive, Burton Group plc.  
ARCHIE J. NORMAN,  
Chairman, Asda Group plc.  
SAINSBURY OF PRESTON  
CANDOVER.

J. Sainsbury plc,  
WOLFSON of SUNNINGDALE,  
Chairman, GUS plc,  
c/o Dixons Group plc,  
29 Farm Street, W1,  
January 22.

## Politics and business

From the Chief Executive of British Airways

Sir, I have found the recent newspaper stories (January 22) about what I eat with and how I might vote personally entertaining. But on a broader level they betray a muddle about what real life is about in business.

Real life has many different worlds. There is the political world of elections, pledges, indignation (sincere or simulated) — the world of "telegrams and anger". That is a world in which I have no direct part but of course like many others take an interest. It is important that good people should engage in it, but I have no aspirations.

There is then the world of business, of producing a service for customers, of investing money to produce a return, of employing people creating a sense of self-esteem and giving them a satisfactory livelihood and skills. As the chief executive of a company that provides transport services for this country and employment for 42,000 people here, that is the world to which I am passionately committed.

In the interests of my company, its shareholders and its employees, I will lobby politicians of every party and point out to them where they are wrong or unjust. For example, I will lobby the Chancellor against the unfair proposals in his Budget to double the air passenger duty and to discriminate against the air transport industry by changing the capital allowances rules, thus making it more expensive to buy the newer, quieter aircraft that we all want.

I am equally opposed to Labour Party proposals to make union recognition mandatory on the results of the majority vote of employees. I have never discussed the windfall tax with the leaders of the Labour Party. It is said that a Labour government would apply it to monopoly utilities: British Airways by contrast is a company competing in fiercely contested international markets.

It appears that all the political parties are now courting industry. I welcome that because the political process can only serve this country well if it listens to the voice of those whose job it is to create wealth and employment.

My background in industry, the law and the Civil Service leads me to put a high value on competence in government — in clarity of objectives and the ability to achieve them. If (which is unlikely) any voter asked me for advice, I would urge them to vote for the party which showed the clearest view of the national interest (which must include the creation of wealth and world competitiveness for our businesses) and the greatest promise of being able to further it.

Yours sincerely,  
ROBERT AYLING,  
Chief Executive,  
British Airways,  
Speedbird House,  
PO Box 10, Heathrow Airport,  
Hounslow, Middlesex,  
January 22.

Business letters, page 27

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Tasks that will face our new masters

From Mr Kevin Grant

Sir, After I had read and pondered on your leading article "The masters now", January 17) on the choice facing us in the forthcoming general election, I had a vision of the future. All our public utilities had been privatised: not just telephones, water, gas, electricity, nuclear fuel, trains and buses, but hospitals, health, pensions, prisons, adoption, the Post Office, the monarchy, the National Trust, all galleries, monuments, common lands and every other remnant of family silver that prodigality could identify.

Control of everything had passed to foreign interests and finally all had become consolidated into one faceless corporation, British Utilities, Brutal for short, with the slogan, "We never forget that you have no choice".

For a nation whose furthest horizon has become the bottom line this fate seems a just one. Our loss is more than that of mere control: it is of any sense of the common good, physical or moral, for which we used to work before swift gains and heedless disposal displaced such notions.

Perhaps old Macmillan had a point.

Yours sincerely,  
KEVIN GRANT,  
October Cottage,  
Main Road, Old Fishbourne,  
Chichester, West Sussex,  
January 19.

From Mr S. D. S. Baldwin

Sir, Perhaps during the election campaign *The Times* could perform a service by publishing a reminder of how MPs voted on the issue of awarding themselves a 26 per cent pay increase last year (report, July 11).

Pensioners and other recipients of state income, due to receive a 2.1 per cent rise, will no doubt be interested in how their MPs voted. Also interested

will be employees who have had rises of less than 4 per cent (while seeing directors accepting large increases) and so, too, will be struggling students and small tradesmen trying to keep buoyant against the demands of banks.

It could be that by ignoring party loyalties, pledges and philosophies and making their mark against greed, such voters could alter the shape of governance for the better and for years ahead.

Yours,  
S. D. S. BALDWIN,  
3 Glendale Rise, Kenley, Surrey,  
January 19.

From Miss Faye Jones

Sir, I am a 14-year-old — the voter of the future — only, if politicians carry on the way they are at the moment, when I get the chance to vote I'm not going to bother.

I don't support any party at the moment because there's no one showing enough common sense to run our country. These politicians — they're just so childish. The only way they can get people on their side is by stabbing other parties in the back. If anyone's good enough to run our country, then surely they can get support by publicising the things they can do; they shouldn't need to spend time on their opponents. I've just seen a party political broadcast in which not a single thing was mentioned about how the party would be good for our country, simply how bad others are for it.

If that's the best the future leaders of our country can come up with, then I think I'll just emigrate.

Yours faithfully,  
FAYE JONES,  
Gateways, Broomfield Park,  
Sunningdale, Berkshire,  
January 16.

## Criminal justice: lest we forget

From Sir John Smith

Sir, David Maclean's view on tackling crime (letter, January 11) seems to be that the combination of blanket enforcement for some offences, in some places, with increased prison sentences will go a long way to resolving the problems of crime and disorder.

Those of us involved in policing some twenty years ago will never forget the disastrous consequences of such policies — most notably the rioting in Bridport and elsewhere in 1981. Have we forgotten, and so soon? Or is this yet another example of telling people what they want to hear in the hope that this time it really will make some difference?

Meanwhile, the rest of us will have to rely upon even fewer police than is presently the case to manage an increasingly depressing situation.

And what of displaced crime? Criminals do not just stop offending (except when in prison, of course); they move to new locations in which they stand a chance of becoming even more prolific and successful.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN SMITH,  
(Deputy Commissioner,  
Metropolitan Police, 1991-95;  
Inspector of Constabulary,  
Home Office, 1990-91),  
23 Winterbourne,  
Horsham, West Sussex,  
January 12.

## Singapore election

From the High Commissioner for the Republic of Singapore

Sir, Your editorial of January 4, "Heavy hand", described Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore as "verging on paranoia", because during the recent elections he accused an opposition candidate, Mr Tang Liang Hong, of Chinese nationalism.

May I remind you that Mr Tang had threatened to sue Mr Goh and Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew for calling him an anti-Christian, anti-English-educated Chinese chauvinist. Mr Goh and Mr Lee repeated their statements, and invited Tang to sue them immediately.

Mr Tang has not done so. Instead he called them liars. Mr Goh and Mr Lee have therefore sued Mr Tang for defamation. The truth of the matter will now be determined in court.

You also criticised Mr Goh for linking votes with upgrading of public

housing. Every political party in the world promises to look after the interests of those who supported it, if it is elected. In many countries they champion special interest groups at the expense of the general population.

In Singapore, the People's Action Party offers housing upgrading to all constituencies, but faster upgrading to those that vote for it. How is this wrong?

Under Mr Goh's leadership, Singapore has achieved 8 per cent economic growth per year, and budget surpluses of 8 per cent of GDP. The Government has used these surpluses to increase the assets of the people by increasing their homes, and selling them blue-chip shares of privatised government companies at significant discounts. Can a politician do this?

Yours faithfully,  
J. Y. PILLAY,  
High Commissioner for the  
Republic of Singapore,  
9 Wilton Crescent, SW1.

## Sunday special

From the Editor of The Sunday Times

Sir, Simon Jenkins (January 22) should not be so dismissive of how "the Sunday papers" get their stories. The Tory spin-doctors did not tell *The Sunday Times* to print our story last Sunday about the Government's plans to privatise working carried out by local authority social services departments. Indeed, they refused to comment when our political editor approached them. Nor was the story fed to other papers: it was an exclusive.

If the spin-doctors "fan out from the party headquarters to tell the Sunday papers what to print", we have not noticed. In my experience, the daily papers are more likely to swallow the medicine these doctors prescribe.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN WITHEROW,  
Editor, *The Sunday Times*,  
1 Pennington Street, E1,  
January 22.

## Flying success

From Mr Michael Forrest

Sir, But would Mr E. H. Ruston's swallows (letter, January 21), which have easily outdistanced Richard Branson's balloon, beat Mr Branson in business? It is easy to forget that the human brain is also a wonder of nature.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL FORREST,  
Appletree, Thames Street,  
Sunning, Reading, Berkshire,  
January 21.

## Responses to the education debate

From Sir Michael Heron

Sir, I was very surprised to see that there was no reference to the inclusion of vocational education in schools in the articles on education as an election issue (January 20: see also leading article, same day). In fact, I do not think the General National Vocational Qualification (GNVQ) was raised at all.

One of the creative activities undertaken by the Tory party has been to bring vocational education into most of our schools and colleges for 16-year-olds and upwards, and indeed there is a pilot scheme to include 14 and 15-year-olds. What this means, of course, is that all children will be able to leave school with well tested and acceptable qualifications.

For the first time in our history our education system will be dealing with all our children and not just the top percentage. I am sure that Labour and other political parties would continue this policy. In my view it is the beginning of something very important for the future.

We must start on the basis that all our children need educating to their full ability and our system must be such that they accommodate this within schools.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL HERON  
(Chairman, National Council for Vocational Qualifications,  
22 Euston Road, NW1,  
January 20).

From Mrs Joanne Sims

Sir, In my view the role of school governors has thus far been missing from the education debate leading up to the general election.

Over the last decade the task of these unpaid volunteers has risen dramatically as the LEAs have delegated more and more responsibility to governing bodies.

The reasoning has been that local communities should have more say in the running of their schools. The reality has been that some LEAs have cut costs by expecting governors to take on more and more work. The result is governors can feel pressurised, inadequately trained for what they are expected to do and increasingly beleaguered, all of which can only have a detrimental effect on the health of our schools.

An interesting statistic, which I have yet to read in the national press, would be the number of school governor vacancies at the moment and where those vacancies occur.

Yours faithfully,  
JOANNE SIMS  
(School governor, 1992-97),  
11 Highdale Road,  
Clevedon, North Somerset,  
January 21.

From Mr A. P. Ridge

Sir, Some of us disagree with the view in your leading article that there is a great difference in quality between state and private-sector schools. Indeed, I sometimes wonder what some of my friends who almost bankrupt themselves to send children to private schools think they are getting for their money.

Yours faithfully,  
A. P. RIDGE,  
Ennismore, 27 Moorgate, York,  
January 20.

From Mrs Mary Redgate

Sir, Surely the purpose of homework (features, January 20) is to teach children to organise their time and to work independently.

If a child is not used to the discipline of independent working during the primary years, then the shock of homework on entering secondary education is often too great a burden and the overall effect is detrimental to their education.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY REDGATE,  
Bidden Cottage,  
Upton Grey, Hampshire,  
January 20.

## Vote on bugging

From Mr Robin Borwick

Sir, Mrs Sally Flinoff (letter, January 22) says that the House of Lords is a valuable checking device.

This is precisely the reason why the Labour Party wants to abolish or "reform" it. There has been no suggestion that the well whipped Commons should be reformed.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN BORWICK,  
Neptune House,  
Newells Lane, Bosham, West Sussex,  
January 22.

## Maths maketh man

From Mr Simon Goulden

Sir, So Joe Joseph, in his article on *Adults know that in the real world there is no such thing as a fraction*.

It might interest him to ponder that in many 0.25s his ideas are regarded as 0.5-baked. Let us have no more subversive 0.2-column writing in your newspaper.

Yours sincerely,  
SIMON GOULDEN,  
33 Ashurst Road,  
Cockfosters,  
Barnet, Hertfordshire,  
January 20.







# SQUADRON LEADER RICHARD LEVEN

The train, which was non-stop from Leicester to Luton, was going at about 60 miles an hour when it approached a bridge. Holt, who was on the tender at the time, was killed instantly. The fireman brought his mate down to the footplate and took charge of the train to Wellingborough, where a relief driver took control.



NEWS

British children asked to sign on

Every schoolchild could be given the opportunity to join the Army, Navy and Air Force cadets under government plans to instill a greater sense of self-discipline, loyalty and fitness among Britain's young people.

Under the proposals millions of pounds would be spent on setting up new centres, on equipping them and on recruiting former Service personnel to train the cadets. Pages 1, 4

New Britannia to be funded by the state

The Royal Yacht Britannia is to be replaced at taxpayers' expense and the ship will be built at a British shipyard. A statement by Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, took the Commons by surprise, and ended deliberations over whether to replace the royal yacht with private sector funding or to scrap plans for a modern ship. Pages 1, 3

Multimillion gamble

The most wizened card sharks in Las Vegas are saluting the Australian tycoon Kerry Packer after he had a multimillion winning streak at the tables. Page 1

Masons' register

The Lord Chancellor ruled out setting up a register of judges who are Freemasons but he told MPs he might canvass senior judges over whether they would declare membership. Page 2

Publishing struggle

One of the last great independent publishing firms is being torn apart by a family power struggle. David Whitaker, chairman of J Whitaker & Sons said his son was trying to seize control. Page 3

Bite mark 'clue'

A youth accused of murdering the schoolgirl Naomi Smith left a distinctive bite mark on her body which was "better than an autograph" in proving his guilt, a court was told. Page 6

Monster discovered

A previously unknown species of flesh-eating dinosaur has been discovered on the Isle of Wight. The 20ft skeleton has a mouth full of razor-sharp teeth. Page 8

Future of GPs

A jury of 16 is being asked to decide which GP services the public is prepared to lose. The verdict could influence the future of all family doctors. Page 9

Pilots warned of hoax traffic controller

Airline crews approaching Brussels airport have been alerted to potentially dangerous radio instructions from a man posing as an air traffic controller. The airport authority said the man, who has been broadcasting on a mobile radio from eastern Belgium, had been using the standard frequencies and the correct jargon to communicate with aircraft. Page 13

Prized seat

The Tory candidate for the party's most prized parliamentary seat, Kensington and Chelsea, will be chosen tonight after a contest between four sharply contrasting contenders. Page 10

Media cash curb

MPs called for laws to outlaw media payments to witnesses in criminal trials and to restrict pre-trial publicity. Page 11

Yeltsin survives

Russia's parliament failed in its first attempt to have President Yeltsin removed from power on the grounds that illness has made him no longer fit. Page 12

Cattle slaughter

Germany authorised the slaughter of over 5,000 cattle originating from Britain and Switzerland in an attempt to dampen popular fears that Mad Cow disease was now endemic. Page 13

Mossad predicts war

Mossad, Israel's foreign intelligence agency, was quoted as saying that unless stalled peace negotiations with Syria were resumed soon, all-out war was likely. Page 14

Seal meat 'scam'

An animal welfare group has accused the Namibian Government of complicity in a "scam" in which Namibian seals are illegally slaughtered, dried out in strips and sold to poor blacks. Page 15



General Sir Peter de la Billière yesterday after he was told that he will not be welcomed at SAS premises for regimental functions. Pages 1, 5

BUSINESS

Economy: The volume of shop sales fell in December, reducing fears that interest rates would have to rise. Page 23

Jobs: Around 2,000 new jobs were announced including 700 at Parcel Force in Coventry, 700 at a meat plant at Merthyr Tydfil and 600 at Shorts in Belfast. Page 23

Morgan Grenfell: Nicola Horlick, the "superwoman" fund manager, said that she had been in informal talks with a rival firm until several days before she was suspended. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 23.6 points to close at 4219.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 96.9 to 97.2 after a fall from \$1.6622 to \$1.6539 but a rise from DM2.7006 to DM2.7142. Page 28

SPORT

Cricket: Michael Atherton is fully aware that defeat by New Zealand in the first Test match could spell the beginning of the end of his reign. Page 44

Football: Alan Buckley was dismissed as manager of West Bromwich Albion, becoming the seventh manager to part company with the club in ten years. Page 44

Tennis: Pete Sampras will play Thomas Muster in the semi-finals of the Australian Open. Page 42

Racing: The circulation war between The Sporting Life and Racing Post has intensified and spread to betting shops. Page 40

Golf: José María Olazábal hopes to return to competitive golf at the Dubai Classic after a break of 16 months. Page 38

ARTS

Totems and taboos: In Welcome to the Dollhouse American director Todd Solondz uses comedy to deal with uncomfortable truths as he charts the humiliations of a bullied 11-year-old girl. Page 31

Suburban angst: Mike Leigh's award-winning film Secrets & Lies is the best of the week's video releases; also Julia Roberts scrubbing a Victorian pavement and attempting an Irish accent in Mary Reilly. Page 32

Space man: As the Royal Academy unveils the first major British showcase for 40 years of the work of Georges Braque, its curator talks of his genius. Page 33

Chris Evans: Nobody earning £1 million a year needs sympathy, says Peter Barnard. Page 33

TOMORROW

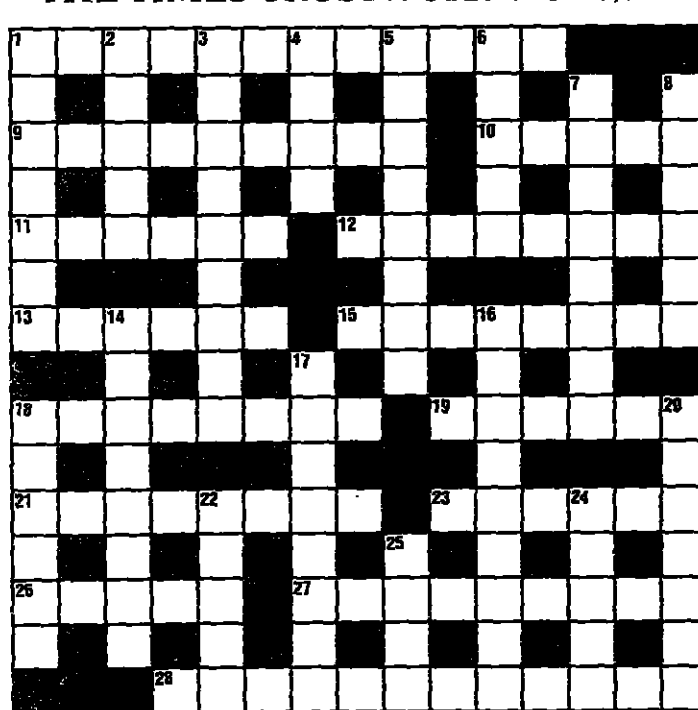
IN THE TIMES

POP Sleaze rockers Suede are making a comeback. David Sinclair talks to lead singer Brett Anderson about their renaissance.

MATTHEW PARRIS Read the columnist of the year every Friday

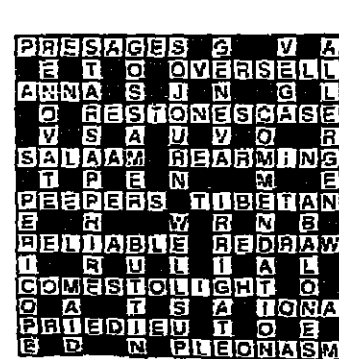


THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,384



- ACROSS**
- Feminine counterpart of electric blue (5,4).
  - Finished with no scores in failures (4,5).
  - Private shot with reasonable accuracy (5).
  - Casualty talk rubbish before getting let out (6).
  - They are expert fish workers (3,5).
  - Case of fruit, holding four (6).
  - Guy putting flowers around party clothes (4,4).
  - Twice copper has to go into the man's plant (5).
  - Judge a silly female (4).
  - Type of phone call - rule out of order (5).
  - Note in concert of limited duration (3,3).
  - 30 visiting church to make fast (5).
- DOWN**
- Employer of hawk few are up before (5,4).
  - Too charming to be doubly mean about queen (6,6).
  - Having taken chair to keep daughter calm (7).
  - Zero role for representation in such painting? (2,3).
  - Each one of them could be on hand, giving gentle treatment (3,6).
  - Lip that is stuck out riskily (4).
  - Father's fur is fair (5).
  - Sound of cult not reported (5).
  - One sister meeting with boy in deluge (8).
  - Head giving credit to academic stream (6).
  - Put in succinct form, forbidden after specified time (9).
  - Minor representative has to advance bloke money (8).
  - Cut ends off large feather (6).
  - State has to uphold protest sooner or later (7).
  - Doorkeeper has hesitation admitting unnamed woman (5).
  - Dirty article put in the shade (5).
  - Fighters mad getting rid of leader (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,383



- PREVIOUS PUZZLES**
- 20,383: 1. FISH, 2. BIRD, 3. FISH, 4. BIRD, 5. FISH, 6. BIRD, 7. FISH, 8. BIRD, 9. FISH, 10. BIRD, 11. FISH, 12. BIRD, 13. FISH, 14. BIRD, 15. FISH, 16. BIRD, 17. FISH, 18. BIRD, 19. FISH, 20. BIRD, 21. FISH, 22. BIRD, 23. FISH, 24. BIRD, 25. FISH, 26. BIRD, 27. FISH, 28. BIRD, 29. FISH, 30. BIRD.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY JANUARY 23 1997



A multimillion-pound investment in a new distribution centre at the Parcelforce depot at Coventry airport will help to create 700 jobs

## Fears of rate rise recede as high street sales fall

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Chancellor was given considerable ammunition in his fight to avoid a damaging interest rate rise before the election - with yesterday's news of a shock fall in high street sales in the key Christmas shopping season.

Retail sales fell 0.8 per cent in December, disappointing already modest expectations in the City of a rise of 0.3 per cent. Against a year ago, sales were up only 2.9 per cent in December compared with year-on-year growth of 3.9 per cent in November, according to the Office for National Statistics.

More significant still for the inflation outlook - and therefore the balance of the argument on interest rates - were clear signs that consumers, for all the fears being expressed in the City of a runaway boom,

are balking at paying higher prices.

Sales of clothing and footwear slumped 4.6 per cent in the month in spite of price falls of 0.2 per cent, an obvious reaction to retailers' attempts to raise prices in recent months. In contrast, food sales grew 0.4 per cent in December. This is one area of retailing where prices have remained extremely competitive as supermarkets have continued aggressive discounting wars.

The financial markets were euphoric yesterday on the assumption that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, will be able to leave interest rates unchanged for the rest of this Parliament.

On the stock market, the FTSE 100 index closed at a record high, climbing 23.6 points to

end at 4,219.1 and British government bonds powered ahead by as much as a full point after the sales figures.

Further strengthening Mr Clarke's hand was another rally by sterling in spite of expectations that interest rates will not now go up. The pound powered ahead in tandem with a very strong dollar, hitting new 52-month highs against the mark. The pound's index against a basket of currencies rose to 97.2 from Tuesday's close at 96.9.

All the recent economic statistics have gone the Chancellor's way. Manufacturing has been weak. The Confederation of British Industry confirmed this week that sterling was hitting exports. There has been a surprise drop in money supply growth and signs that consumer demand for credit,

including mortgages, tailed off somewhat in December. The last piece of the jigsaw comes on Monday with preliminary figures for fourth-quarter growth that are now widely expected to show a slowdown in economic activity compared with the third quarter.

Commenting on the overall picture, Keith Davies, UK economist with 4cast, said: "Evidence that slowing consumer spending dampened fourth-quarter growth, coupled to sterling's strength, suggests that the Chancellor has more than enough ammunition to keep rates on hold in February, while political considerations mean a rate rise after February is unlikely as the Chancellor enters the pre-election rate-rise exclusion zone."

Michael Saunders, of Salo-

mon Brothers, noted that December retail sales are more important than most months because the absolute level of sales by non-food retailers is about 50 per cent above the average of the other 11 months of the year.

"Hence, a weak December will leave retailers with excess stocks and this will help to cap prices in early 1997," he said.

The Chancellor decided to leave base rates unchanged at his monetary meeting with the Bank of England a week ago, citing the strength of sterling as a key reason. Earlier this week, the Bank made it clear that it wanted a rate rise. The next meeting on interest rates is on February 5.

Pennington, page 25

## Royal yacht brings hope of jobs to shipyards

By OLIVER AUGUST

THE Government's surprise announcement that it will build a new royal yacht in Britain crowned a day of good news on the employment front. A total of 2,500 new jobs were announced yesterday. Taxpayers' money will fund work on the replacement *Britannia* for at least 500 shipbuilders at one of the few remaining UK shipyards. MPs from Belfast, Scotland and the North East were lobbying Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, in the House of Commons last night to secure the work for their constituency.

Nick Granger, director of the Shipbuilding and Ship-repairers' Association, said nine UK shipyards were capable of building a new royal yacht, including Vosper Thornycroft in Southampton, Devonport in Plymouth, the Appledore yard at Bideford, Devon, Harland & Wolff in Belfast, VSEL in Barrow, Yarrow Shipbuilders on the Clyde in Scotland, Kvaerner Govan, on the Clyde, Ferguson, on the Clyde, and Rosyth in Scotland.

He said: "No one has built a luxury vessel in this country for years, but one or two yards have been looking recently at small, luxury vessels as a possible market. An order like this could keep a yard busy for up to two years."

The Government's announcement was preceded by good news for various industries across Britain yesterday. At Shorts in Belfast an extra 600 aerospace workers will build a new 70-seat mid-range aircraft.

A further 700 jobs were created by the Post Office, which announced a multi-million-pound investment in its Parcelforce business. A new distribution centre in Coven-

try will make the business "faster and more efficient than any other carrier in the UK", it said.

Kevin Williams, the Parcelforce managing director, said: "The two new superhubs will be the largest investment in Parcelforce's history and create the biggest distribution centre in Europe, opening in 1999. Using state-of-the-art technology, the hubs will be capable of handling 40,000 items an hour and will reduce costs significantly."

Over the next two years a fully mechanised central distribution hub will be built to handle Parcelforce's express traffic. This will significantly increase network capacity, enabling Parcelforce to handle comfortably the 50 per cent growth it expects in its share of the express market over the next ten years.

St Merryn Meat announced it was investing more than £25 million to build one of the largest meat processing plants in Europe on reclaimed land near Merthyr, Wales.

The company, which supplies meat to Tesco, the supermarket giant, employs nearly 1,000 workers mainly in the South West and plans to take on another 600 in Merthyr, creating another 70 in supply firms.

The creation of 2,500 new jobs comes after last week's loss of 1,300 jobs at Ford's car plant at Halewood, Merseyside. Workers at the plant are to strike today in protest at the planned job cuts.

A union spokesman said that he expected all the plant's 4,500 workers, including white collar staff, to strike from 6.30am.

Toyota warning, page 24  
Shorts jobs, page 28

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDICES

|                |          |           |
|----------------|----------|-----------|
| FTSE 100       | 4219.1   | (+23.6)   |
| Yield          | 5.89%    |           |
| FTSE All share | 2065.27  | (+10.10)  |
| Nikkei         | 18013.88 | (+655.72) |
| New York       |          |           |
| Dow Jones      | 6818.86  | (-65.04)* |
| S&P Composite  | 782.13   | (-0.59)*  |

### US RATE

|               |         |           |
|---------------|---------|-----------|
| Federal Funds | 5 1/4%  | (5 1/4%)  |
| Long Bond     | 96 1/2% | (96 1/2%) |
| Yield         | 6.80%   | (6.78%)   |

### LONDON MONEY

|                   |         |           |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|
| 3-month Interbank | 6 1/4%  | (6 1/4%)  |
| Life long gilt    | 11 1/4% | (11 1/4%) |

### STERLING

|          |         |          |
|----------|---------|----------|
| New York | 1.6545* | (1.6537) |
| London   | 1.6538  | (1.6537) |
| DM       | 2.7133  | (2.7024) |
| FF       | 8.1508  | (8.1164) |
| Sfr      | 2.2640  | (2.2533) |
| Yen      | 198.50  | (198.00) |
| £ Index  | 97.2    | (96.9)   |

### DOLLAR

|        |         |          |
|--------|---------|----------|
| London | 1.6375* | (1.6297) |
| DM     | 5.5280* | (5.4950) |
| FF     | 1.4285* | (1.4195) |
| Sfr    | 118.50* | (117.92) |
| Yen    | 100.9   | (100.3)  |

### NORTH SEA OIL

|                    |         |           |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| Brent 15-day (Apr) | \$22.00 | (\$22.05) |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|

### GOLD

|              |          |            |
|--------------|----------|------------|
| London close | \$351.15 | (\$353.65) |
|--------------|----------|------------|

\* denotes midday trading price

## Warning

Toyota may build a new car in Britain but warned Euro-sceptics not to upset investment plans by pushing Britain out of the European Union. Page 24

## Less room

David Michel, chief executive of the Stakis leisure company, forecast that hotel occupancy rates will rise this year to levels last seen in the 1980s boom. He expects occupancy in Stakis hotels, which include the Metropole chain, to reach 76 per cent. Page 25, Tempus 26

## Irish income tax cut in giveaway Budget

By AUDREY MAGER AND EILEEN MCCABE

RUAIRI QUINN, Finance Minister of the Irish Republic, yesterday cut income tax and social welfare contributions in a set of giveaway Budget proposals.

He reduced the lower 27 per cent tax rate by 1 per cent, widened the qualifying PAYE bands and increased other allowances in a move seen generally as a booster for John Bruton's coalition Government in the run up to a general election this year.

Opposition parties added their voices to the critics and accused the Government of jeopardising the economy for the sake of winning votes.

Mr Quinn rewarded Irish workers for the economic growth of the past three years, announcing the first tax cut since 1992. As well as reducing the standard rate he increased personal allowances and widened tax bands. He also cut

social insurance contributions by a point to 4.5 per cent.

Together the measures will put an extra Ir£14 in the pocket of the average worker with four children. Single workers are set to gain about Ir£8 a week.

For the business community, Mr Quinn repeated last year's Budget cut to the standard rate of corporation tax, bringing it down a further 2 per cent to 36 per cent.

Welfare recipients received across-the-board increases and "children's allowances" were increased. Small farmers and young people moving into farming were given tax breaks worth about Ir£20 million.

Despite a Ir£650 million giveaway, Mr Quinn predicted that buoyant tax revenues would allow the government to record a current budget surplus of Ir£103 million in 1997.

Tempus, page 26

## Scots pension funds chief dies, aged 52

DAVID BERRIDGE, a senior figure in the life insurance industry and chief executive of Scottish Equitable for the past 14 years, has died, aged 52, from a rare blood disorder (Paul Durman writes).

Mr Berridge was credited with turning Scottish Equitable into one of the leading companies in the pensions market. Yesterday, Scott Bell, group managing director of Standard Life, said: "He was a lovely fellow, unassuming and very able. He was much respected by his peers. He will be a sad loss for us all."

Scottish Equitable grew so rapidly that in 1993 it had to seek additional financial backing from Aegon, the Dutch insurance group that has pumped more than £600 million into the business. Mr Berridge was about to take on a wider role within Aegon when he became ill.

## Horlick admits talks with rival

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NICOLA HORLICK, the former Morgan Grenfell fund manager, yesterday confirmed that she had been in talks with a rival firm until several days before she was suspended.

Mrs Horlick, who wants to be reinstated in her old job managing the department that looked after £18 billion of UK pension fund assets or receive compensation for loss of office, said the talks with ABN Amro, the Dutch bank, were of an "informal and preliminary nature".

She added that at no stage did she provide ABN Amro with confidential information about Morgan Grenfell's business or her colleagues.

Morgan Grenfell today concludes its internal investigation into the circumstances surrounding Mrs Horlick's suspension last week, followed two days later by her departure from the firm. The City fund management house, which says she resigned her job, has alleged that Mrs Horlick breached her contract by attempting to poach staff to join her at ABN Amro. It has taken statements from eight of her former colleagues.

Mrs Horlick, who was offered and accepted the post of managing director just days before her suspension, said of her discussions with ABN Amro: "The talks terminated several days before I was suspended. My aim was always to keep the clients and the team together for the benefit of all."

A spokesman for ABN Amro said: "We have said all we want to say on this matter despite the fact that other people add new information."

Time to settle, page 27

## Billionaire buys 25% stake in Rangers

By JASON NISSE

JOSEPH LEWIS, the reclusive billionaire based in the Bahamas, has bought a 25 per cent stake in Rangers in a deal which values the Scottish Premiership leaders at £160 million.

David Murray, the Edinburgh property developer who bought control of Rangers for £6 million in 1988, will have his holding diluted to 61 per cent. The profit on Mr Murray's investment

totals more than £90 million. The money is to be used to build a 150-bedroom hotel at Ibrox stadium, together with leisure facilities and to pay off debts. Rangers had a turnover of £30.1 million last season and the club made operating profits, before interest and player purchases, of £7.1 million.

Mr Lewis is a currency trader and former caterer who also owns a 28 per cent stake in Christie's International.

He is a keen golfer, backgammon player and follower of racing, but has shown no previous interest in football despite a friendship with Dermot Desmond, one of the leading shareholders in Celtic, arch rivals of Rangers in Glasgow.

A spokesman said: "Mr Lewis will not play an active role in finance. His interest has been to finance the deal."

Mr Murray said the deal would give Rangers enough finance to carry it

though to a possible float in two or three years' time. Mr Lewis's stake will be offered under option to English National Investment Company, an investment trust he controls. Mr Murray is to take a stake in ENIC and Daniel Levy and Howard Stanton, two of the trust's directors, are to join the board of Rangers.

Jointly, ENIC and Mr Murray will then look for other investment opportunities in sport and leisure.

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### Channel guidelines win BBC backing

THE BBC has thrown its weight behind guidelines by Ofcom, the telecommunications regulator, to protect its programming against an onslaught of 200 new digital channels to be launched this year.

The guidelines, the first compiled by Ofcom which is normally responsible for the telephone market, will regulate operations of the computer menu which allows viewers to choose service providers.

Patricia Hodgson, BBC director of policy and planning, said: "The BBC welcomes Ofcom's role as a tough and proven regulator with a brief to ensure fair competition. Their document asks the right questions. The answers will decide how 22 million households will get television and interactive services in the digital age."

BSkyB, owned 40 per cent by News International, which owns The Times, plans to launch digital satellite services offering up to 200 channels into Britain this autumn.

A terrestrial version, which can be received on conventional aerials and will offer around 35 channels, is expected to begin in mid-1998.

### TOURIST RATES

|                 | Bank Buys | Bank Sells |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| Australia \$    | 2.23      | 2.07       |
| Austria Sch     | 20.00     | 18.50      |
| Belgium Fr      | 56.67     | 54.37      |
| Canada \$       | 2.324     | 2.164      |
| Cyprus Cyp£     | 0.840     | 0.785      |
| Denmark Kr      | 10.88     | 10.08      |
| Finland Mk      | 8.49      | 7.84       |
| France Fr       | 9.52      | 8.87       |
| Germany DM      | 3.96      | 3.65       |
| Greece Dr       | 437       | 412        |
| Hong Kong \$    | 12.46     | 12.46      |
| Iceland Iskr    | 120       | 100        |
| Ireland P£      | 1.08      | 1.00       |
| Israel Sh       | 5.75      | 5.10       |
| Italy Lira      | 2732      | 2577       |
| Japan Yen       | 210.90    | 194.90     |
| Malta           | 0.657     | 0.602      |
| Netherlands Gld | 3.186     | 2.956      |
| New Zealand \$  | 2.50      | 2.28       |
| Norway Kr       | 11.29     | 10.49      |
| Portugal Esc    | 200.00    | 181.50     |
| S Africa Rd     | 8.29      | 7.49       |
| Spain Pta       | 336.00    | 320.00     |
| Sweden Kr       | 12.40     | 11.60      |
| Switzerland Fr  | 2.46      | 2.50       |
| Turkey Lira     | 197500    | 185500     |
| USA \$          | 1.757     | 1.627      |

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## Toyota jobs depend on Euro-sceptics stance

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

TOYOTA could build a new car in Britain but warned Euro-sceptics not to upset investment plans that would mean hundreds of new jobs by pushing Britain out of the European Union.

The company's plant at Burnaston, Derbyshire, is favourite to win millions of pounds of investment as Japan's biggest carmaker investigates ways to make more cars in Europe.

The company wants to make 10 per cent of the cars it sells in Europe inside the community, which would mean production of about 30,000 cars a year by the turn of the century.

Burnaston is the obvious

site for expansion, already earmarked for a doubling of production from 117,000 cars last year to more than 200,000 when a new Corolla model is added to the current Carina E mid-range car already made at the factory.

However, the company needs to build a new mini-model to compete in the fastest growing segment of the European market, such as the Ford Ka, Vauxhall Corsa, Ford Fiesta and Volkswagen Polo.

Alan Marsh, vice-chairman of Toyota Motor Europe, said yesterday that no decision on a third model for Burnaston had been made yet. However, he said that the company was worried by the friction in the

Government about the future of Britain's role in Europe and gave a warning that a move to leave the European Union could have serious consequences for future investment.

Mr Marsh said: "About 75 per cent of production at Burnaston is exported and it would be of great concern to Toyota if the UK found itself excluded from the European Union."

If Euro-sceptics forced the Government into a referendum, Mr Marsh said, a misinformed public could vote to leave Europe, which would have "serious consequences for Toyota in the UK."

Like Nissan, which yesterday said it was investing more than £200 million to make a

third model at its base in Washington, Tyne and Wear, Toyota wants more European production and is prepared to invest heavily in the UK.

Toyota's European sales grew 7 per cent last year to 450,000 vehicles, although the target is 600,000 in the next century. However, opposition to Europe in Britain might convince Toyota to study setting up plants in Eastern Europe or Spain.

A decision to build more cars at Burnaston would be a boon for British exports and component makers. Toyota already plans to spend about £800 million a year with European suppliers from 1998 — half with British companies.

### Eurocopter opts for full integration

By OLIVER AUGUST

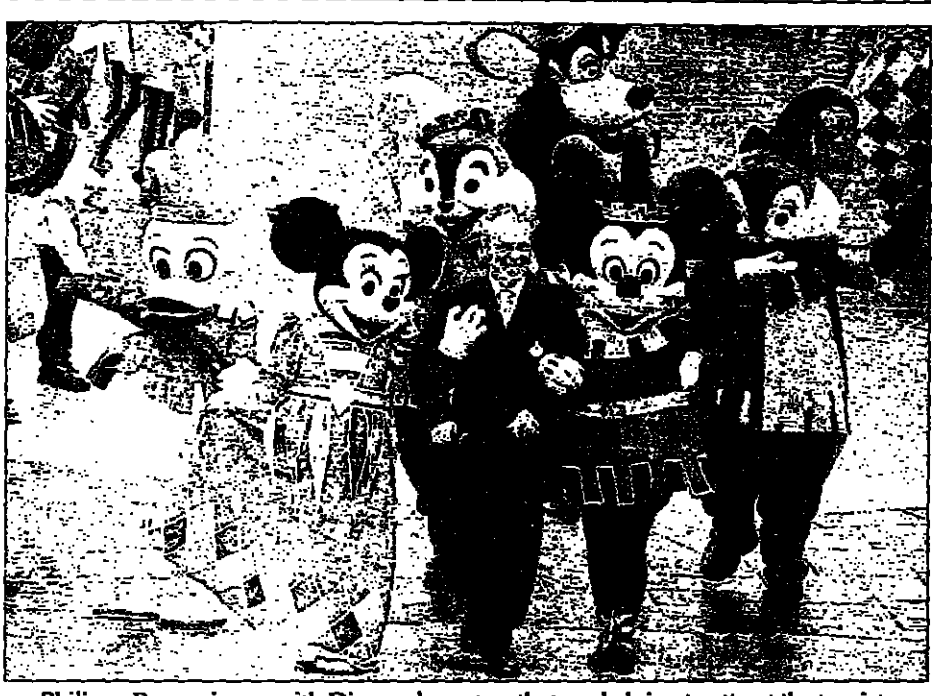
CONSOLIDATION in the European aerospace industry will reach another milestone this year with the full integration of Eurocopter, the helicopter consortium that is 70 per cent owned by Aerospatiale of France and 30 per cent by Dasa of Germany.

Eurocopter said that its constituent companies would be merged and a single management structure created.

A spokesman said: "All Eurocopter directors will exercise their functions across the board at both entities. The two entities will form a coherent, integrated unit while enabling national identities to be retained."

Eurocopter executives felt it necessary to establish a dual identity to maintain ties with the French and the German governments. Consolidation will also improve efficiency, marketing and financing.

However, relations with the French are strained. Eurocopter is seeking £700 million in late payments for development of the NH90 military aircraft. The matter stems from a French decision to delay until 2010 deliveries of the NH90's tactical transport version for the army, the consortium said.



Philippe Bourguignon with Disney characters that are helping to attract the tourists

### Lift for Euro Disney

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

SHARES of Euro Disney, the theme park just outside Paris, rose in both London and Paris yesterday after the company unveiled a healthy increase in first-quarter revenue.

Euro Disney achieved a 11.7 per cent increase in revenues to Fr1.1 billion as attendances and spend per head continued to rise. Last year 11.7 million

visitors were attracted to the theme park just outside Paris. The company said that it had improved its exploitation of low-season visits to lift revenue, but cautioned that profits may be held back by a commitment to keep park prices at 1996 levels and another increase in finance charges.

Philippe Bourguignon,

chairman and chief executive, said that finance charges will rise by an extra Fr200 million this year after the end of a debt holiday period. A further Fr100 million will become due in 1998.

In France the shares rose 7 per cent to Fr11, while in London the shares closed up 24p at 118 1/2p.

### Car cover to rise as insurers feel cold

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

MOTOR rates are set to rise by an average 8 per cent this year as insurers resist writing business at a loss.

Premiums across the industry have already risen around 5 per cent, and are likely to go up again in the spring. Privilege Insurance, sister company of Direct Line, the telephone insurer, has already lifted its average rate by three per cent, and says this figure is below the industry average.

The Association of British Insurers, the industry trade body, expects rates to rise this year. It said premiums for both motor and household are currently "as low as they can go". A large number of accidents caused by the recent big freeze have led to a rush of claims, the ABI says.

Neil Utley, Privilege chief executive, said some insurers made selected increases of up to 10 per cent at the end of last year. He said: "Insurers are really feeling the pain. For the first time in 18 months they are having to buck the trend of the downward cycle and put up prices."

He believes competition is so fierce, that by the end of the decade fewer than 50 players — half the current number — in the insurance market will be operating.

He said: "Eventually, business sense will take over from the anxiety to retain customers and some players will decide it is not worth continuing."

David Lennan, head of NatWest Insurance Services, also predicted a rise in motor rates.

He said: "There has been tremendous competition in the industry which has driven rates down. However, the cost of acquiring new business is high and insurers have to pay for newspaper and television advertising if they want to increase market share. These high costs are going to be unsustainable in the long run."

He believes some of the smaller insurers are beginning to feel that there is not really enough money to be made in such a competitive market. He added that rates are likely to rise at times when people start to look for new cars: January, spring and August.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

#### Chancellor opposes EU 'tax on banks'

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, opposes plans by European economists to impose what he calls a "tax" on banks of countries who move to the single currency. Mr Clarke says there are "significant disadvantages" in the proposal, under which banks of the EU member states involved would have to hold minimum reserves in euros, thereby tying up valuable funds. Requiring banks and credit institutions to hold large amounts would be used by the European Central Bank (ECB) as a tool to control interest rates, via a single monetary policy.

The Bank of England backs Mr Clarke's opposition to the proposals, which he says would amount to a "tax on business".

#### Burns loses PIA appeal

BURNS Anderson Independent Network, one of the UK's biggest financial advisers, has lost a challenge in the Court of Appeal against the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), its regulator. The network sought a judicial review of the PIA and the PIA ombudsman over claims for compensation from investors with Steeds, one of its former member firms, for losses totalling £5 million. The ombudsman found there could be a case for the network to answer.

#### Boost for Thorntons

NEW-LOOK shops helped Thorntons, the confectionery company, to a big upswing in sales over the Christmas period. In the seven weeks to December 28, group sales, including new shops, rose 25.7 per cent. Excluding new shops, sales were 10.6 per cent ahead on Christmas the previous year. In the first half, in which like-for-like sales were up 15.2 per cent, 63 shops were refitted and 51 were opened, including 18 that were moved to new sites.

#### US home starts slow

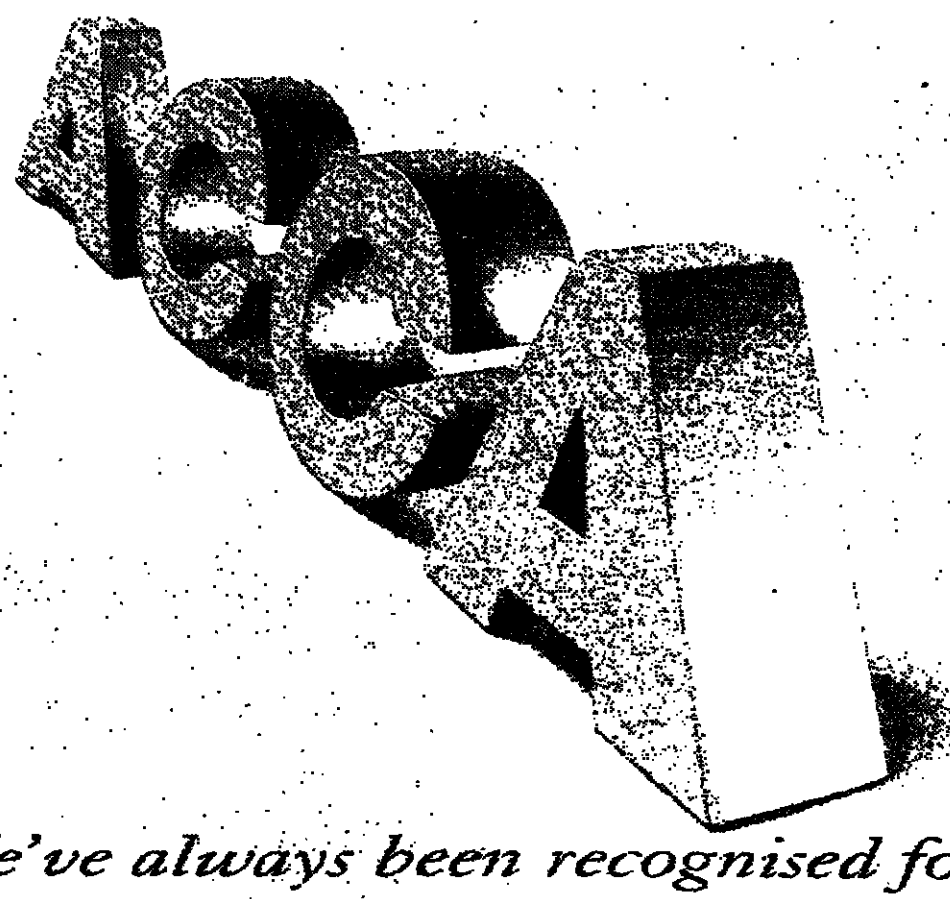
AMERICA'S Commerce Department said starts on new homes and apartments declined sharply in December to the slowest rate in 15 years. Total starts fell 12.2 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,329 million, the weakest building rate since 1,301 million in June 1995. Despite the drop, which was precipitated by severe weather, construction for all of 1996 was strong. The total 1,474 million homes started was the briskiest building rate in eight years, since construction was started on 1,488 million homes in 1988.

#### New business up at CU

SUCCESS in selling pensions and a new corporate bond personal equity plan helped to push up Commercial Union's new UK business by 23 per cent to £49 million last year. Worldwide, new business increased by 25 per cent to £2.9 billion and there was growth in single premium sales to £2.4 billion, a rise of 20 per cent. In The Netherlands, Delta Lloyd's single premium sales were 47 per cent higher, with pensions substantially higher.

#### Multimedia expansion

NEWS MULTIMEDIA, award-winning CD-Rom publishing arm of News International, owner of The Times, is to concentrate on rapidly expanding online activities. Richard Withey, director of new media at News International, said: "Now that we have concentrated our efforts on the online market, we will be able to reach those consumers who want to buy our content in an interactive format, but who do not wish to invest in CD-Rom." New products will be aimed at Internet users.




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## Shop till you stop

IT IS now plainly wrong to talk about a high street boom, runaway consumer spending or pressure on inflation. The latest retail sales figures should be the last proof that fears of a return to the late 1980s are unjustified.

They paint an even more subdued picture than has emerged from the British Retail Consortium, the CBI and those of their members that have given us their recent thoughts on Christmas trading.

Such monthly figures may be an unreliable guide to longer-term trends. But data from the retailers are equally skewed. Any company with a share price quote has a vested interest in emphasising the positive; for those, such as Marks and Spencer, who are fast losing patience, that tendency towards optimism becomes a matter of survival.

By contrast the detail in the retail sales numbers makes it clear that no matter how many goods walked out of the shops in December, the public was not inclined to pay too much for them. The worst fall in volume was for clothing and footwear, down 4.6 per cent since November. Prices in that sector were off 0.2 per cent, which means the retailers actually cut their prices ahead of the Christmas rush.

These were areas where they had been trying to push these up

over the autumn, and consumers' subsequent resistance suggests there are more price falls to come in the early months of this year.

The data had analysts scaling back their estimates of next Monday's fourth quarter GDP figures, the last significant set of numbers for 1996. James Capel is looking for 0.5 per cent, or a modest 2 per cent annualised, which suggests a slowdown in the economy in the last three months of the year. It is also, more significantly, below the level at which economists are technically required to worry about inflation.

If the figures come in here or only a little higher, Kenneth Clarke will have his final piece of ammunition against pressure from the Bank for higher base rates. While the latter will worry about house prices, car sales and other warning signs, the Chancellor will be able to point to an economy showing modest, long-term, sustainable growth.

This should virtually rule out a further rise in base rates in February, and March will be too close to the election for one to be

even considered. There is one more paradoxical argument in Mr Clarke's favour, and that is yesterday's sterling strength, nothing to do with domestic trends but merely shadowing a resurgent dollar.

But it is the opposite of what the pound should have done if, as the market believes, base rates are less likely to rise. Expect complaints to grow in coming months about the high pound as it impinges on company trading statements. If sterling cannot be persuaded to behave itself when rates are on hold, what is the political damage if rate rises push it even higher?

### And now, a spanner in Labour's works

STEPHEN LITTLECHILD has become adept at throwing spanners in works; accidentally, most likely, but they're still being hurled.

Gordon Brown, as he crafts the windfall tax on the utilities, the cornerstone of his revenue raising strategy, must wonder at the damage the good professor

### PENNINGTON



may inflict on his plans. Slapping a windfall tax on the privatised utilities is a clear political winner with most consumers of gas, electricity and water. Not, however, if it squeezes prices higher.

Such was the prospect raised at the Trade and Industry Committee when the electricity regulator said he would listen to any pleas of companies hit by the windfall tax if they complained it left them so financially strapped they were unable to meet their licence obligations. He could bear such squeals in mind for a subsequent price review and could amend arrangements accordingly. This could mean slacker controls and, to you and me, higher prices.

The queue of companies keen to bend his ear on the horrors of the windfall tax is forming already. They must have thought they had precious few allies against Labour's plans.

To the Government, his surprises are usually unwelcome and appear at particularly sensitive times. This is the man who turned the secondary sale of the generators' shares into a political disaster by announcing an unprecedented reopening of the distribution price review — a move that knocked millions off share prices. It also gave rise to grumbles from American buyers about perfidious and unstable Albion, although this does not seem to have kept them away from the subsequent car boot sale of the distributors.

Ahead of the British Energy float it emerged that the professor had been gagged and was unable to make any statements likely to affect valuation of the nuclear generator for a certain period. He then demanded that Scottish generators cut their prices — a move that sent them screaming that they would try to pull out of their lock-in deals

with Scottish Nuclear. A very definite price-sensitive threat. Now the curse of the professor looms again — for Labour.

### Overpaid and over here?

THE Americans are coming, and the British are happy to let them in, as long as they stay away from these borders. Of the top ten merchant banks involved in cross-border European deals in 1996, by value of transactions undertaken, six were American.

In 1995 that number was four. Firms such as JP Morgan and Morgan Stanley are taking a greater share of cross-border work. Only one truly British bank, NM Rothschild, made the top ten, even if the list was led by one other with British connections, Lazard.

The table is courtesy of *Acquisitions Monthly*. The US has a stranglehold on European cross-border work, says Philip Healey, the publication's editor, because the British and integrated European banks seem happy to let this market share

build up. This is assuming, in the case of the Brits, that the Americans stay off their territory, because British banks had a remarkably good year in their domestic market in 1996.

The Americans have achieved some of their success by waving huge salary cheques around. JP Morgan and Merrill Lynch, two new entrants last year and in fifth and sixth places respectively, have invested heavily in European high-fliers.

It seems you can buy yourself market share, in merchant banking as in any other field of business. The Americans European focus might turn out to be a wise one. British M&A work is expected to fall; but the banks pan-European workload will continue to climb. The current state of the French and German economies, and the need to impose market disciplines on industries that currently lack them, will see to that.

### Market force

MARKETING directors tend to be bright young chaps in striped shirts, who dash around with clipboards. They tend not, on the whole, to be 61-year-old retired Tory MPs. How refreshing to see that this is GEC's notion of new blood, as the company appoints Sir Geoffrey Pattie to the post.

## Stakis chief forecasts 'Eighties' hotel boom

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

DAVID MICHEL, chief executive of Stakis, the leisure company, predicted yesterday that hotel occupancy rates this year will touch levels last seen in the 1980s boom.

Mr Michel forecast that occupancy levels in Stakis's hotels division, which includes the recently acquired Metropole chain, could reach 76 per cent this year, while room rates should rise by around 7.5 per cent.

Stakis said yesterday that occupancy rates, excluding the Metropole hotels, had fallen from 72 per cent to 71.8 per cent in the first quarter of the year due to the temporary closure of its Tyneside hotel for refurbishment work. The average room rate increased by 10 per cent to £50.10. Food

and beverage sales at the hotels rose by 9 per cent on a like-for-like basis, while total turnover rose 14 per cent to £40 million.

The Metropole chain recorded an occupancy rate of 64.7 per cent and an average room rate of £64.77 in the first six weeks under Stakis's control, which the company said was ahead of last year.

Stakis also yesterday received formal clearance from Ian Lang, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, for the £227 million purchase of the chain from Lorrain.

The casino division also showed a marked improvement in first-quarter trading with turnover rising by 20 per cent to £142 million on a like-for-like basis. Attendances

jumped 17 per cent although the average spend per head fell slightly, due to the sale of the up-market Barracuda.

Stakis said it would continue to improve the performance of the division and was also hopeful of adding new sites, including a larger one in Edinburgh.

Mr Michel was encouraged by the increased casino attendance. "More people realise that they are a reasonable night out. You don't have to spend £100," he said.

"We have spent a year trying to make them do so, we've made a number of conversions, one big new build, and promotions to our base membership of 900,000, and we have introduced new training tables."

The company said that it had completed the integration of the LivingWell health clubs into its new health and leisure division. The clubs have around 24,000 members.

Stuart Broster has been appointed managing director of the division. Stakis purchased the seven-strong LivingWell chain for £20 million last year with the aim of rebranding its 21 existing hotel health and fitness clubs.

Shares in the company closed up 3½p at 105p compared with the rights issue price of 82p. Stakis made the £227 million rights issue to fund the Metropole acquisition in November.

Tempos, page 26

### Cadbury gets sale go-ahead

THE EUROPEAN Commission gave full approval yesterday for the £623 million sale of Cadbury Schweppes' stake in a UK bottling company to Coca-Cola Enterprises (Alasdair Murray writes).

The Commission had been investigating the competition consequences of Cadbury's disposal of its 51 per cent stake in Coca-Cola Schweppes Beverages. Coca-Cola Enterprises (CCE) is 43 per cent owned by Coca-Cola Company which is also selling its 49 per cent stake in the bottling company to CCE.

The Commission ruled the merger would not strengthen Coca-Cola's position. Dominic Cadbury, Cadbury Schweppes chairman, said funds tied up with bottling could be diverted to boost the company's brand portfolio.

## Young says final word on air alliance is with UK

By JON ASHWORTH

THE jurisdictional dispute over the proposed British Airways transatlantic link-up continued yesterday, with both Brussels and London insisting they would have the final say. Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, told MPs that the final word rested with the UK, as Brussels repeated its threat to refer the affair to the European Court of Justice.

Sir George said the UK competition authorities alone had the power to investigate and approve the proposed alliance between BA and American Airlines. He criticised the European Commission for interfering when he said it should have investigated subsidies being paid to other European airlines.

Sir George said the Italian Government had just paid out £1.2 billion to Alitalia, while



Young: standing firm

UK-based airlines received no subsidies. Other European airlines with US airlines had, he said, "presented a competitive challenge to UK airlines", and had spurred plans for a BA-American link-up.

The subject was raised by Sir Peter Fry, the Conservative MP.

He said BA faced a potential windfall of £500 million from the sale of slots, based on an estimated value of £3 million each. The Office of Fair Trading has indicated that BA should give up 168 slots at Heathrow for the alliance to proceed. Rivals say the measures do not go far enough.

In Brussels, Karel Van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, reiterated his threat to take the matter to court if European competition concerns were not addressed. He said: "If our competition concerns are not met — and selling slots is not the appropriate answer, far from it — then we have to take it to court."

The OFT is considering responses to its initial conditions for approving the BA-American alliance. The next round of "open skies" talks between Britain and America opens in Washington on February 4.

### JD Sports to open shops in retail parks

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

JD SPORTS, the sports goods retailer that was launched on the stock market in October, is planning to open its first shops at out-of-town retail warehouse parks.

Its current 73 shops are concentrated on main high streets and at out-of-town shopping centres. It will open its first stand-alone outlet at Fort Dunlop near Birmingham in the spring. It is then looking to open at similar parks near Southampton, Middlesbrough and Edinburgh.

The company yesterday revealed maiden interim results in line with expectations. Its pre-tax profit after exceptional items in the six months to September 30 was £4.35 million (£3.57 million). Earnings per share were 6.75p (5.47p) but, as forecast in the prospectus, there is no interim dividend. The company said it expects to pay a final dividend once full-year earnings are known.

John Wardle, chairman, said the company would not be affected by a new Office of Fair Trading campaign to get retailers to blow the whistle on suppliers who have prevented them from discounting.

There was some disappointment with the most recent trading figures that show like-for-like sales in the 13 weeks to end of December up 9 per cent, compared with 19 per cent growth in the first half.

Tempos, page 26



James Watson, left, and Colin Glass, chief executive

### Watson has 500 more Alldays outlets in store

WATSON & PHILIP revealed plans to open 500 Alldays convenience stores in the next three years, bringing the total number to more than 1,000 (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The company's 526 stores are mainly in the south of England and Scotland, but it is now looking to open in the Midlands and the North. It will soon open its first store near London, at Kingston-on-Thames. The shares — in

decline since a profit warning in October — climbed 50p to 392½p after Watson & Philip reported results at the top end of expectations.

Pre-tax profit in the year ended October 27 was £18.8 million (£18.5 million). A 12.2p final dividend lifts the total payout to 17.5p (16.5p), payable on February 28.

Colin Glass, chief executive, said Alldays like-for-like sales were 2.4 per cent better.

### Regulator warns over electricity price rises

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE spectre of electricity price rises stemming from a Labour government's windfall tax emerged yesterday as MPs quizzed the industry's regulator on how he would treat affected companies (See Pennington, this page).

In a veiled warning that Labour would face curbs on the amount of tax it could levy because it would have to consider the companies' abilities to meet their licence obligations, Stephen Littlechild said he would listen to company appeals. He told the Trade and Industry Select Committee that such appeals could be taken into account for future pricing arrangements.

Electricity companies are likely to use the windfall tax as a strong argument for leniency over pricing curbs imposed by the regulator. But Professor Littlechild told the inquiry into energy regulation that before any move on pricing mechanisms he would have "to be persuaded that they couldn't afford to finance their activities".

The Government would, however, be able to halt such action by the regulator if it were done through special agreements with companies or via a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Then the Secretary of State at the Department of Trade and Industry would be able to intervene.

## Portman stands by small savers

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE Portman Building Society decided yesterday that it had considered raising the minimum opening balance for share accounts to deter thousands of carpetbaggers.

However, Ken Colley, chief executive, said that he had decided to continue offering a service to small savers with a minimum balance of £100.

"We are committed to mutualism and we are not for sale," he said, as he unveiled a slight drop in pre-tax profits for the 12 months to December 31.

On Tuesday, the Britannia, another mutual building society, suspended the opening of instant access accounts to deter windfall speculators.

Mr Colley said that speculative savers in the Portman had caused a sevenfold increase in the number of new accounts and that last year the society opened a net 150,000 new accounts, bringing its total to 800,000.

He predicted that mutuals would win back market share of retail savings and mortgages from the banks because of better savings and borrowing rates.

His forecast accompanied news of a

decline in pre-tax profits, from £36 million to £34.3 million for the full year. The results revealed a 48 per cent leap in gross mortgage lending last year, to £329 million, with net lending up 58 per cent, to £451 million.

Mr Colley said that the market was extremely competitive and the results had been achieved against the background of huge changes in the financial services industry.

Net retail receipts leapt 96 per cent, to £321 million, while arrears fell by 44 per cent and the number of repossession properties by 59 per cent.

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**MICHAEL CLARK**

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## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Sale appetite at the Savoy

WORD has it that the Savoy group is selling its corner of Knightsbridge, Brasseerie St Quentin and Grill St Quentin are up for sale, leaving Simpson's in the Strand as the group's only remaining restaurant outside its hotel collection. The Savoy group's track record as far as its satellite restaurants are concerned has been somewhat disappointing. Remember Wilton's? Remember Stone's Chop House? The hotel group sold the York Building behind the Adelphi Theatre last October, and is soon expected to sell its Surrey bed factory. "There's nothing going on at this point in time," a spokesman said.

### Horlick's break

LUCKY ITN had Nicola Horlick all to herself yesterday. Reporters from LBC waiting for superwoman to emerge from the ITN building after a lunchtime interview, were ready to grab a soundbite when La Horlick had the microphone snatched away. A minion from ITN, hot on her trail, reminded them politely that her ladyship was already taken.

MARK Hadsley-Chaplin is back in town. Having resigned at Christmas as head of UBS Securities East Asia, after five years building it up, "Chaps" is said to have taken a job with a rival investment bank. For two months he has been renovating his vicarage on Prince of Wales Drive, southwest London. With four children and a wife expecting next month, Chaps says: "Now seems a good time to go back to work."



"Fortunately people are buying shares instead"

### Knight alarm

ANGELA KNIGHT was out in the rain again yesterday. Extolling the virtues of the all-female Oeas team at the Institute of Chartered Surveyors, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury was interrupted by a fire alarm. The troops marched out of 12 George St and Knight was the only one with an umbrella. Like chickens to a hen, representatives from SIB and Antif huddled round in vain to find shelter. Wasn't it white Knight who rescued her team from the Treasury fire?

### Power play

A MANAGER at Southern Electric's Oxford North depot was named man of the match at Monday night's game at Watford Football Club. When the lights went off before the game against Oxford United, Tony Taylor was near the ground. Although Watford FC has a private power network which falls geographically within Eastern Electricity's franchise area, Taylor put back the power supply.

CALCULATING how many advisers help run an organisation can be tricky. Sir Anthony Grant, MP and member of the Trade and Industry Select Committee, offered a suggestion at yesterday's energy regulation hearing: "The head of a business should only gather round him as many people as he could comfortably buy a round of drinks for."

MORAG PRESTON

John Major, the Prime Minister, yesterday breakfasted with business leaders, and broadcast the result around the country in a satellite link-up to spread the Conservative message to industry before the general election. As he did so, the airwaves were still resounding from his deputy Michael Heseltine's clash with Tony Blair and business leaders — nominally over the new report on competitiveness from the Commission on Public Policy and British Business, but in reality a tactical strike against Labour's better relationship with business as the election approaches.

Leaving aside the political row that blew up over his claims that the Institute for Public Policy Research is a "front" organisation for Labour, business leaders were astonished at Mr Heseltine's attack on them. By late evening of the day the Commission's report was launched, Mr Heseltine was backtracking somewhat, arguing that he was not actually attacking business leaders on the Commission, such as George Simpson, managing director of GEC, or Bob Bauman, chairman of British

Aerospace. Rather he was criticising the Commission's officials, the real culprits behind the report, since people running companies such as GEC did not have the time for that kind of thing themselves.

What is curious about this episode is not the political accusations of knavery and/or dupe flying around. The politics of it are simple — each party saying to a key constituency like business: vote for me. The bulk of the Commission's report is also largely unexceptional. The curious part is that Mr Heseltine's own officials have been aware of its contents for weeks, and even took part in the process of its being drawn up.

Four years ago, as President of the Board of Trade, Mr Heseltine beat his way past

internal opposition in Whitehall and in the Conservative party to establish a Competitiveness Unit. To considerable political scepticism from his own side, Mr Heseltine produced in 1994 the first of what has become an annual series of White Papers aimed at improving Britain's competitiveness. In his speech at the launch of the Commission's report he correctly claimed that because of this, "nowhere in the world" is the competitiveness agenda taken more seriously than in Britain. When the Commission was established in 1995, it drew heavily on the groundbreaking work on competitiveness by Mr Heseltine.

In an appendix to its report, the Commission lists the people and organisations from

whom it took evidence in drawing up its report. There are 191. They include Geoffrey Norris, Mr Blair's main industry adviser, and Nick Matthews, Labour's policy official on industry. But they also include three officials from the Treasury, three from other government departments, six from the CBI, senior figures from companies such as PowerGen, Mercury Asset Management, British Gas, BT, Tesco, Prudential, IBM, NatWest and Glaxo Wellcome, to say nothing of Ian Greer Associates, plus two officials from Mr Heseltine's Cabinet Office Competitiveness Unit.

The Commission unanimously agreed its report on October 14. It went to the printers at the end of the month. Then it was

"benchmarked" with key outside business figures, and its contents revealed just before Christmas in a private meeting with Mr Heseltine's Competitiveness Unit officials.

Leaving aside the points of political contention, like the recommendations on the social chapter and the minimum wage, Whitehall officials versed in Mr Heseltine's vision of competitiveness found little in it with which to quarrel. When *The Times* began last year to disclose the unpublished report's contents and recommendations, Mr Heseltine's political antennae began to twitch, and he eventually decided upon his leap into the Commission's launch.

The move has probably served principally to highlight a report that would otherwise have seen relatively little publicity. It may have served Mr Heseltine's purpose in casting doubt on Labour's new business credentials. But it has at best puzzled and at worst angered business leaders — a reaction that it will probably take a good few more breakfasts with Mr Major to smother.

PHILIP BASSETT

# Dose of competitiveness that sent Tarzan off the deep end

## Settle this row now, for City's sake

The Horlick case needs to be resolved swiftly and sensibly, says Robert Miller



Eye of the storm: Robert Smith, centre, Morgan Grenfell chief executive, flanked by Nicola Horlick and Peter Young

Robert Smith must wake up in the morning and wonder what fresh trouble is in store for him. As the embattled chief executive of Morgan Grenfell's asset management arm criss-crosses London to reassure anxious UK pension fund clients that their £18 billion is in safe hands, he can be sure that even more lurid and unfavourable headlines are on their way.

As Morgan Grenfell completes its internal investigation today into the departure of Nicola Horlick, the two sides appear to be further than ever from reaching a settlement.

Morgan Grenfell, with the wholehearted public support of Deutsche Bank, its parent company, has insisted that Mrs Horlick resigned her post a week ago, two days after she was suspended for an alleged breach of contract.

In "resigning" — Mrs Horlick says that she was "constructively dismissed" — Morgan Grenfell insists that she has not only left the firm but has also walked away from a possible 1996 bonus worth up to £500,000, and access to a phantom option plan used to shelter deferred bonuses, valued at up to £2 million.

The company has stated that there is nothing wrong with Mrs Horlick having talks with ABN Amro, the Dutch bank, with a view to a possible job offer. The former fund manager admitted yesterday that she had been in talks with ABN Amro until a few days before she was suspended. What her previous employer alleges, however, is that Mrs

Horlick breached her contract by trying to poach some of her team while they were employed by Morgan Grenfell. Its case is built around some eight statements, taken from colleagues and fellow fund managers, by Fox Williams, the law firm.

Given Morgan Grenfell's vehemence, which grows rather than diminishes with each passing day, it seems that a behind-the-scenes settlement is out of the question. The firm says that Mrs Horlick breached her contract and if she wants to sue then so be it. But who gains?

Certainly not Mrs Horlick. Her high-profile antics, skipping between London and Frankfurt last Friday, did her more harm than the original alleged offence. It appears that Mrs Horlick had frequently

raised the stakes in the past, going for a better position and more money within Morgan Grenfell. This latest spat was not the first time that posturing had gone on. But whereas in the past Keith Percy, Mrs Horlick's old mentor who left Morgan Grenfell after the Peter Young unit trust scandal last year, had smoothed things over and kept a successful team together, Mr Smith decided enough was enough.

Leaving aside the alleged crime of poaching staff, what Mrs Horlick did in terms of talking up her own position was no more or less than goes on in numerous companies, and not just those in the Square Mile. But even if she did talk to some of her staff about joining her was there not a better way to defuse the situation. And might it not still

be resolved without loss of face. Morgan Grenfell and Herbert Smith, Mrs Horlick's law firm, could sit down and thrash out a confidential deal. She would probably have to accept that the £2 million in deferred bonus has gone but some of last year's bonus, but not all of it, could still be handed over.

Why? Well, who gains from an inevitable court case? Morgan Grenfell certainly won't. Given that Imro, the City watchdog for fund managers, is expected to inflict a record fine, possibly topping £1 million, on Morgan Grenfell for its failure to spot irregularities and rule breaches in two European funds run by Peter Young, such a case will merely resurrect suspicions and concerns

as to whether the firm really is fit to manage money on behalf of millions of pension scheme members.

This would be a pity. Stuart Mitchell, Mr Young's replacement, has already started to turn the funds' fortunes around and Morgan Grenfell, as a house, has provided consistently good returns over the past five years to its clients.

There comes a time, however, when one more scandal, one more set of lurid headlines, forces trustees and custodians of pensioners' money to go elsewhere. There is also the £200 million in compensation that Morgan Grenfell will pay shortly to some 90,000 investors in the two European fund managed by Mr Young. More publicity.

Even after the Imro disciplinary action, which is likely

to involve actions against certain senior individuals, including bans or restrictions from working in the City for a period, there is still a Serious Fraud Office investigation into Mr Young. This centres on a complex web of companies established with the assistance of Wyler & Woolf, a Swiss law firm, and allegedly using investors' money. It has been suggested that Mr Young's health is not robust, and it is by no means certain that the SFO will conclude its investigation by pressing charges and proceeding with a trial.

One senior City fund manager said yesterday: "The sooner the Nicola Horlick business is sorted out the better. It is embarrassing to the City at large." Another added: "The whole thing has been completely overblown and was not helped by Nicola's over-the-top reaction last Friday. The rights and wrongs are not as clear as some would have it. The City is a crucial part of the economy and these spats over salary and bonuses make it look like we win the lottery every year."

It seems increasingly clear that beyond Mrs Horlick's undoubtedly hard-nosed approach and her sense of her own value — overblown to many — she has been under intense pressure. Her daughter needs further treatment for cancer, and her husband Tim, who now works for Salomon Brothers, faces legal action from Kleinwort Benson, his former employer, which is looking for a settlement of between £50,000 and £100,000.

Maybe, just maybe, Morgan Grenfell can relieve itself of one set of embarrassing headlines by showing a human face. Because Mrs Horlick played her hand and clearly lost out should she suffer for the rest of her life? Morgan Grenfell appears to have no legal obligation to make a payoff. But in considering the matter it may feel that it is about time that a once proud house should stop bringing the City into disrepute quite so often.

## BUSINESS LETTERS

### Nursery profits and losses

From Deborah Hinks

Sir, As Whitbread becomes the largest operator of private nursery schools in Britain and Pennington speculates on the riches to be made out of the lucrative pre-school care market (January 9), it is time to acknowledge decades of research evidence showing that children under the age of three do not thrive emotionally in a day nursery setting. By failing to admit the true psychological needs of young children, individual investors may well become financially rich, but society becomes emotionally poorer. Yours faithfully, DEBORAH HINKS, What About the Children? Gallions Lane, Back Street, Gayton, King's Lynn.

### Credit where due

From Mr A P H Rogers

Sir, With reference to Sir Guy Millard's letter (January 7), many of us who have already paid large sums into Lloyd's on account of the "finality" feel that it would be very nice to have had a credit however long one might have to wait to get the cash! Yours faithfully, A P H ROGERS, Clos De Collette, La Villaise, St. Ouen, Jersey.

### Smarter move

From Mr B.C. Hunt

Sir, I seem to remember an advert: The Smarter Investor goes to the Alliance and Leicester. After recent events, I would say the smarter larger investor went to the Woolwich. Yours faithfully, B C HUNT, 6 Penworth Court, Rushingham Road, Rushingham, West Sussex.

## Bundesbank likely to resist French pressure for rate cut

This week's sombre warning about the state of the German economy from no less a figure than Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, coupled with a shockingly weak report on business from the Munich-based Ifo Institute, has sent a little frisson through the financial markets. Surely, the argument goes, the Bundesbank will cut rates to boost the economy at home and, in the process, help Germany and its European partners to get closer to the Maastricht criteria for joining a single currency.

### Janet Bush on the complex issues influencing policy-makers in Bonn

Bundesbank to bolster growth through a deliberately weak exchange rate. As Adrian Owens of Julius Baer Investments says: "The Bundesbank has traditionally taken pride in the strong mark."

The Bundesbank does not want to promote monetary loosening simultaneously through the exchange rates and interest rates. It also

wants to avoid risking an acceleration of the mark's downward trend, particularly given speculation that the US Federal Reserve is about to raise American interest rates, which, in itself, would give the dollar an extra boost.

The German central bank is likely to argue that, in any case, the weak currency is likely to be more effective in boosting growth than a marginal cut in interest rates. The repurchase rate, at 3 per cent, and the discount rate, at 2.5 per cent, are already very low and, more importantly, long-term German rates, regarded as far more important for the economy, have been declining steadily even with short rates unchanged. From a peak of

around 9 per cent at the end of 1990, ten-year interest rates have declined to around 5.75 per cent, their lowest level for six years.

But beyond all such rational economic and domestic arguments for keeping rates on hold is the entire question of monetary union. An intensifying power struggle between Germany and France over

who will determine the kind of single currency that Europe will have, is deeply uncomfortable for the Bundesbank's economic conservatives. France has recently been flexing its muscles in a way that has set alarm bells screeching in Frankfurt. At the Dublin summit, the French argued for politicians

to have a say in who might be punished for running excessive deficits after monetary union — having already indulged in outrageous accounting to put its own deficit on course to meet the Maastricht economic convergence criteria. Even more criminal in Bundesbank eyes have been subsequent suggestions that

the independent European central bank should be subject to some kind of dialogue with politicians on monetary policy.

As if this was not provocative enough, Paris is now insisting that a Frenchman should become president of the European central bank, and suggesting that Germany ought to be cutting its interest rates and weakening the mark against the dollar.

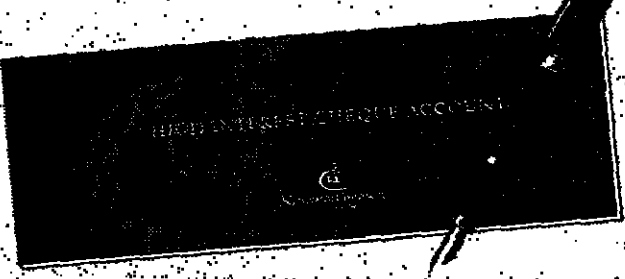
On Tuesday, Giscard d'Estaing, the former president, continued his campaign for lower interest and exchange rates in France and Germany, expressing the opinion that "the markets have understood that, sooner or later, German rates would have to be lowered".

Of all the potential reasons for the Bundesbank to stand pat on rates, French attitudes must be the most powerful. Put crudely, the Bundesbank will not want to cut rates because this is what the French want. A cut in rates in the current atmosphere would seem too much like an endorsement of French desire for a soft euro with a large, relatively ill-disciplined membership, hopelessly compromised by political meddling.

The mark has been under pressure because investors believe a French-style soft euro is likely to happen. But there is also a distinct possibility that Chancellor Kohl, under pressure from an increasingly discomfited Bundesbank, will eventually revolt and opt to delay monetary union rather than sign up for the French model. Then, the mark would soar. Then, perhaps, interest rates might be cut.

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# Shorts to create 600 jobs in Belfast

By Oliver August and Eileen McCabe

SHORTS of Belfast yesterday announced that it would create up to 600 jobs to build a 70-seat mid-range aircraft and disperse some of the gloom that recently descended on Northern Ireland's economy.

Bombardier, the parent company of Shorts, launched the Canadair Regional Jet (CRJ-X) in a bid to win the lion share of the mid-range market after the collapse of Fokker and the sale of McDonnell Douglas last year.

Ken Brundle, Shorts vice-president, said: "This is excellent news for Shorts. The CRJ-X is the sixth Bombardier aircraft programme in which Shorts is playing a major role. These programmes are of great significance to the company and to the Northern Ireland economy."

Shorts will be responsible for the design and manufacture of the forward and centre fuselage and the engine nacelle system.

Mr Brundle said the new programme was particularly welcome after the loss of up to 1,000 jobs last year in the wake of the collapse of Fokker, the Dutch aircraft maker, which provided the firm with 25 per cent of its aircraft work.

He said: "Over the past 12 months we have had a disappointing time, to say the least, and we have had to shed hundreds of jobs. But today we are talking about 600 to 800 jobs, mostly new jobs, that will be generated in Belfast over the next three to four years."

The CRJ-X is based on the original Canadair Regional Jet that seats 50 passengers. The combination of the two aircraft will make them the only combination of 50- and 70-seater on offer to airlines, according to Shorts.

But while Shorts is growing, total economic growth in Northern Ireland fell below the UK average last year for the first time since 1990, according to a report by Coopers & Lybrand, published yesterday.

The company's annual economic review laid the blame for the reduction in growth from 3 per cent in 1995 to 2 per cent last year on the sluggish economic performance of Northern Ireland's main export markets rather than the breakdown of the IRA ceasefire.

However, it said that business confidence among indigenous companies was badly dented by international media coverage of the extensive civil unrest during the Orange Order stand-off at Drumcree last summer.

More than 70 per cent of Northern Ireland's chief executives who responded said that they were concerned about the impact of that unrest on their business activities.

The report said that in spite of the effects of public spending cuts, growth should pick up this year. But it added that Northern Ireland needed an injection of political confidence. "The extent to which the economy will really accelerate may have as much to do with confidence as with opportunity," it said.

## Pension guidelines issued by Opra

By Adam Jones

DRAFT guidelines on whistleblowing in cases of pension fund maladministration obliging scheme auditors and actuaries to report breaches of the law, even if they seem minor.

The Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (Opra), the watchdog created under the Pensions Act 1995, issued a consultation document yesterday. It outlines how auditors and actuaries should fulfil obligations under the Act, which comes into force on April 6.

The draft guidelines stress that it is the legal duty of auditors and actuaries to make written reports to Opra

if they have reason to suspect irregularities, even in seemingly insignificant cases.

A spokesman for Opra said it was trying to build up a database that could be used to anticipate serious problems using patterns of past behaviour. The guidelines also advise auditors and actuaries not to investigate any suspected breaches themselves if there is a risk that guilty parties could conceal evidence.

Opra will have no power to punish those auditors and actuaries who do not comply. They will be dealt with by their professional bodies.

## New deal rings up more customers for Telewest

By Oliver August

TELEWEST, the cable operator, has increased its customer base by one third with a new package scheme offering a combination of cable television and telephony.

Stephen Davidson, chief executive, said the package scheme had been the principle reason for the strong growth in the fourth-quarter results announced yesterday.

The total residential customer base is up 33.8 per cent from a year ago. Half of all residential Telewest customers now take both television and telephony. He said: "There are

three different packages offering various combinations of cable television channels. We started the offer in October and have already seen very good results."

Mr Davidson said there was a further financial advantage for Telewest: to sign up, customers have to agree to direct debit payments while ordinary customers are allowed to pay cash.

Because the churn (or default) rate on direct debit is lower, the company has found the new schemes especially profitable. Telewest's average

## Move East yields dividends for Shani

By Fraser Nelson

SHANI, the women's wear manufacturer that closed two Yorkshire factories and moved production to Eastern Europe last year, said yesterday that the move had helped it to return record results for the year to October 31.

Sales of coats and jackets had been hit by the mild winter of 1995-96, it said, and pressure on prices for separates continued throughout last year.

However, with a first full-year contribution from Anglo Foreign and cost savings from switching production offshore, pre-tax profits rose to £3.14 million (£2.5 million) on sales of £33.8 million (£27.6 million). Its shares gained 3p yesterday, closing at 121½p.

Martin Hollis, chairman, said the company had closed the two British plants through want of skilled workers.

In Lithuania, he said, most women made their own clothes, creating a more abundant workforce. The quality of production matched that in Britain, he said, with a fraction of the labour costs.

Earnings were 14.3p (£13.5p) per share. The total dividend is 7.17p (6.64p) with a final 4.8p per share, due April 8.

The company, whose labels include Admyra, Lampard and New Order, said that around 40 per cent of its garments are now produced overseas, against 25 per cent last year.



Martin Hollis with Terry Timpson, model, left, and Emma Stordy, designer

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### AT&T hails record year after changes

AT&T, the American telecoms company, reported fourth-quarter net income of \$1.62 billion, compared with a \$2.68 billion loss in the final three months of the previous year when the company took an exceptional charge of \$2.03 billion for restructuring. Quarterly earnings were 76 cents a share, compared with a 59 cent loss previously. Earnings before charges last year were 68 cents. Net income for the full year was \$5.9 billion, recovering from profits of just \$139 million in 1995. Full-year revenues were \$52.18 billion (\$50.66 billion).

During the year AT&T demerged its Lucent and NCR subsidiaries and sold other businesses. Robert Allen, chairman, said: "AT&T had a record year in 1996 in the face of extraordinary challenges and changes in our business and in our industry." Mr Allen said results were affected by an increase in bad debts.

### Hotel group advances

SCOTTISH HIGHLAND HOTELS, which joined the market in November, beat its forecast in the year to October 31 with profits of £2.13 million (£1.42 million) before tax and exceptional. The company, which owns six hotels in Scotland, spent an average of £1,400 per room on maintenance over the period. That helped income per room to climb to record highs, lifting overall revenue to £16.6 million (£15.7 million). Earnings were 10.3p (8.3p). A maiden dividend of 0.5p is payable on February 7.

### Greycoat buys property

GREYCOAT, the property company which last year fended off a challenge to its independence from Moorfield, a rival company, has acquired 80 Cannon Street from Louthbury Property Trust for £13.6 million. Adjacent to Cannon Street Station in the City, the 37,500 sq ft office building is fully let, but certain leases will expire in less than five years. Greycoat said the price paid represents an initial yield of about 13 per cent.

### Sales rise at Compaq

COMPAQ COMPUTER, the world's biggest maker of personal computers, reported a sharp rise in profits and sales in the fourth quarter. Net income rose to \$462 million in the three months to December 31 from \$82 million in the final quarter of 1995. Earnings were \$1.64 a share (30 cents). Fourth quarter sales grew by 15 per cent to \$5.4 billion from \$4.7 billion. Net income for all of 1996 rose to \$1.3 billion, or \$4.72 a share, from \$789 million, or \$2.88 a share.

### Mentmore shares slide

SHARES of Mentmore Abbey fell 7p to 56½p yesterday after the provider of self-storage services disclosed problems at British Data Management, acquired four months ago for £42.5 million. The company said trading at BDM was "substantially below expectations". The company reported pre-tax profits of £1.31 million and exceptional charges for the half year to October 31, against £36,000 previously. Earnings were 0.15p a share (0.14p). The interim dividend is 0.6p (nil).

### Saville pegs payout

J SAVILLE GORDON, the property development and steel stockholding company, is holding the interim dividend at 1p a share after reporting a fall in pre-tax profits to £2.64 million from £2.84 million in the half year to October 31. Property activities achieved a 14 per cent increase in rental income but overall profitability suffered as a result of the adverse impact of lower nickel prices on steel stockholding operations. Earnings were 1.7p a share (1.88p).

## ACCOUNTANCY

# Deafening silence on the standards of tax advice

Stella Fearnley says unregulated areas of accounting and taxation mean a dangerous free-for-all

A local paper recently reported the case of an accountant jailed for defrauding clients. No compensation was available to the victims. He was unqualified, regulated by no one, and not subject to any professional surveillance or disciplinary action.

What the report did not say was that when the villain is released from jail there is nothing to stop him carrying on as he did before, with the same opportunities for further misappropriation.

Had he been professionally qualified he would undoubtedly have been struck off for his crime.

But much to the chagrin of his honest professional colleagues, nothing could stop him continuing to practise as an unqualified accountant, and offering accounting and taxation services to the public.

The past ten years have seen two big changes in accounting. Competition has driven down prices and the introduction of state-mandated regulation in financial services, auditing and insolvency has generated ill-felling as the benefits compared with costs remain uncertain. The criticisms arise through the State's insistence on tedious proactive monitoring of procedure instead of use of the powerful fire brigade at the first sign of smoke.

Regulatory theorists insist that any industry (or profession) should jump at the chance to regulate itself because of the market power that comes with it. But the present regime has been so bad that practitioners do not want what they have lost, let alone any more. But in the unregulated areas of account-

ing and taxation there is still a complete free-for-all.

So caveat emptor is the cry in the market. But it is really as simple as that. As a result of the Government's cherry-picking regulatory policy, our newspapers are full of advertisements and our high streets full of plates describing different types of accountant, auditor, insolvency practitioner, financial consultant and tax adviser (to name but a few), some licensed, some registered, some regulated, some chartered, some certified, some incorporated, some accounting technicians, some respectable, some honest, some not.

It may not be reasonable to expect the non-financially literate small trader or private individual in need of tax and accounting advice to pick his or her way through the varying levels of indemnity and recourse available through all these operators. Let alone evaluate value for money of the services on offer. And what will self-assessment bring?

Some would say that the battle for the soul of accounting services was lost in 1930 when the combined lobbying of the English and Scottish accounting bodies with royal charters vigorously opposed national registration of all qualified accountants, believing that the brand name of "chartered" was superior. Thus, short-term self-interest eliminated any possibility of reserving the title of "accountant" to qualified persons.

The present membership of the English and Scottish institutes may still believe that the title "chartered accountant" conveys an underlying message of superiority



Stella Fearnley cites the case for a system of licensing advisers where benefits outweigh costs

against other competitors. As other qualifying organisations have shown a remarkable interest in obtaining the right to use "chartered" in their title, they must also believe it has competitive advantage. But the exclusivity of the title is now diminished and licences take precedence over the qualification in some areas, so it is devalued.

Sadly, while the undignified posturing squabbles between the respectable bodies have continued (not only over titles), the acting of the unqualified in the unregulated areas of accounting and taxation has flourished, and client money, unless held under the financial services regulations, may continue to be snaffled.

Of course, one fraud, unless it be on the scale of a Maxwell, does not present a case for regulation, even if sensibly managed on the fire brigade principle.

Regulation can be justified only where there is evidence of sustained market failure. Unregulated client money and consumer confusion may not be enough. However, the ultimate beneficiary of good tax advice is not just the consumer, but the Government itself as recipient of the taxes.

So while the State has been imposing regulatory processes where cost benefit is doubtful, there is a deafening silence on the cost benefit of ensuring minimum standards of tax advice where the State itself could be the beneficiary. It must be time for another look.

first by investigating, in partnership with the Inland Revenue, the development of a system of licensing tax advisers where the benefits clearly outweighed the costs, and secondly by considering controlling those holding client monies.

In the meantime, the chartered bodies would do well to sink their differences and concentrate on convincing consumers of their present advantages over the unqualified and uncontrolled.

□ Stella Fearnley is a principal lecturer in accounting at Portsmouth Business School and a member of the Council of the English ICA. She thanks Peter Wyman of Coopers & Lybrand for his advice on this article.

## Taxing pie chart for politicians to digest

THERE is a chart in the latest tax survey from Price Waterhouse which ought to worry politicians of whichever party wins the election. It is an innocuous pie chart. But it shows how the in-house tax staff of a significant number of the companies in the FT-SE 250 organise their time.

Once upon a time, an honest assessment would have included a slice to cover throwing of paper darts, cricket matches played with balls of paper and so on. Not so now. Tax is a high-level activity in any big company. It has moved from being a complicated but essentially plodding discipline to a serious part of senior strategy.

And that is why the politicians need to take note. Bringing in tax from large companies requires two factors to be working. There needs to be a good relationship between the Inland Revenue and the company concerned and there needs to be tax legislation which is clear. Increasingly, both factors are becoming skewed in companies' favour. Tax legislation is convoluted and so becomes easier to argue about and exploit and the battle between tax brains at the Inland Revenue and among both a company's advisers and its in-house tax staff has shifted towards the corporate sector.

This is not a simple test of which set of experts is the brighter. The arguments that companies have scooped the brightest out of Somerset House and only left the second division behind are not necessarily correct. But the Inland Revenue does operate under different pressures and in the end it is a matter of morale and confidence.

Tax experts on the corporate side are given their heads. Their role is becoming central to a company's success. Tax experts in the Revenue are caught between policy and practice. They are always having to resolve political tensions that have been dumped upon them from elsewhere. Strategies are erratic. The result is that it is much harder to achieve their objectives.

What the Price Waterhouse survey shows is how difficult the task has become. The pie chart of the use of time by tax staff is a clear indication. On one side of the chart is the chunk representing time spent on national direct-tax compliance. On the other is time spent on tax planning for national taxes. The first figure is 32 per cent and the second is 15 per cent. At first glance that looks fine.

Compliance work is taking twice as much time, perhaps more if you add in a further 14 per cent devoted to indirect taxes as the time spent on planning.

But compliance work is still, despite technology, a slog. Time spent on planning is much more effectively used time. For it to have climbed to almost half of the compliance time suggests that companies are pushing further and further ahead to hone their abilities in ensuring that tax liabilities are, quite legally, the minimum necessary.

The overall figures are even more worrying for politicians and the Revenue. Price Waterhouse has also charted the figures for broader categories and compared them with their first survey which covered 1995.

Only in time spent on indirect tax has the compliance time spent risen. And that — in a year when people will have been tightening their VAT compliance in particular — only moved one percentage point, from 13 per cent to 14. Time spent on overseas direct tax compliance fell from 8 per cent to 2 per cent and time spent on national direct tax compliance fell from 32 per cent to 31. And where has the extra time been used? The time spent on tax planning in 1995 was 21 per cent. In 1996 it was 28.

All this is highly subjective of course. But being able to divert much more resources into planning will undoubtedly have a payoff in the future. And it will be one about which the Treasury will not be happy. But Price Waterhouse is at pains to suggest that much of the tax planning activities are due to the circumstances in which companies find themselves. Forty-four per cent of FT-SE 250 tax managers are willing to use planning techniques "occasionally" and another 29 per cent whenever possible.

But it is the VAT side which explains much of politicians' unease. Forty-six per cent of companies were exempt, or partially exempt, from VAT. The survey says: "It is not surprising that 48 per cent of respondents had employed VAT mitigation techniques and this was by far the most popular positive planning technique employed."

From the politicians' point of view, the only answer to counter the rise of the tax planner is clearer legislation and use of the Revenue's resources. And those are about as likely as a fall in the tax planning figure in next year's survey.



ROBERT BRUCE



## Equities reach new heights

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**FILM 1**  
**Child in distress:**  
*Welcome to the Dollhouse* charts the humiliations of a bullied little girl



**FILM 2**  
**A distinguished cast enlivens**  
a man's search for his biological parents in *Flirting With Disaster*

# THE TIMES ARTS



**FILM 3**  
**Tom Hanks's *That Thing You Do!***  
charts the rise and fall of a one-hit pop group in the early 1960s



**FILM 4**  
**Michael J. Fox plays a bogus psychic given a real scare in**  
the disappointing *The Frighteners*

CINEMA: Not all ugly ducklings become swans, says *Welcome to the Dollhouse*. Geoff Brown is moved

## Laugh, that you may not weep

She is not your conventional movie heroine. Eleven years old, she sports thick glasses, sloping shoulders, unwieldy hair and pendulous lips; her preferred form of dress is an awful pink cardigan complemented by a flower print skirt. "Why do you hate me?" she asks a schoolmate. "Because you're ugly."

Do you laugh or cry? Todd Solondz's compelling and unsettling comedy *Welcome to the Dollhouse* encourages us to do both as it contemplates poor Diane Wiener in her first year at Benjamin Franklin Junior High. The setting is suburban New Jersey, Solondz's stamping ground, and it is clear he has put a lot of his own remembered torments and humiliations into the script.

Nobody likes Diane. Schoolmates cover her locker with graffiti. The class bully gives notice that she'll be raped at three o'clock. Teachers give her the cold shoulder. So do her parents, far more enamoured of their younger daughter, Missy, forever piroqueting in a tutu. Diane, indeed, is not particularly lovable; and, it says much for Solondz and his plucky young player, Heather Matarazzo, that they continue to engage our sympathy for this ungainly, petulant, self-loathing outcast embarking on the hell of puberty.

Solondz is a New York University Film School graduate, whose credits embrace several comic shorts and one barely seen feature, *Fear, Anxiety and Depression*. Like Woody Allen, Solondz knows how to make capital from his own phobias and sense of inadequacy. Unlike Allen, he takes risks, going beyond sophisticated chatter to face the totems and taboos of a North American childhood.

**Welcome to the Dollhouse**  
Renoir, 15, 87 mins  
Unsettling comic look at puberty

**Flirting With Disaster**  
Warner West End, 15, 90 mins  
Lively black satire about family ties

**That Thing You Do!**  
Warner West End, PG, 100 mins  
Bland nostalgia from Tom Hanks

**The Frighteners**  
Plaza, 15, 110 mins  
Director Peter Jackson takes a step backwards

**Like Grains of Sand**  
ICA Cinema, 124 mins  
Piercing Japanese drama about adolescence



Brendan Sexton Jr and Heather Matarazzo in Todd Solondz's compelling and unsettling rite-of-passage comedy, *Welcome to the Dollhouse*

In the opening seconds we gaze into a family portrait, all smiles. The rest of the film wipes the smiles away as we wrestle with uncomfortable truths, usually blanketed in American cinema. Parents do not always love their offspring, or love each other equally. Some children are monsters. And life does not always get better; no matter how resilient she is, no rainbow lies around the corner for gawky Diane.

"The film is a comedy," Solondz says, "because that is the only way I know how to deal with excruciating torment." The precarious balance struck between pain and laughter keeps you riveted. Once seen, you don't forget *Welcome to the Dollhouse*.

Like Solondz, fellow American independent filmmaker David O. Russell has an envi-

able gift for making light of uncomfortable situations. He made *Spanking the Monkey*, that disturbing comedy about incest. Russell remains obsessed with family ties: *Flirting With Disaster* concerns a young man's hunt for his biological parents.

The journey takes him from New York across to San Diego, up to Michigan, down to New Mexico, accompanied by his wife, their new baby, and an adoption agency psychologist bent on documenting the happy reunion. Surprises lurk at every turn, and the jokes tumble out with an ease that indicates the cast's high spirits, or improvisation skills, or both.

The cast, indeed, is extraordinary. Only a genuinely funny script could have attracted veterans such as Mary Tyler Moore, George Segal, Alan

Alda and Lily Tomlin: these are among the parental figures who trip up the hero with different neuroses and lifestyles. The man with a mission is Ben Stiller, who is far better off playing uncertain young professionals than he is directing *The Cable Guy*. Even Patricia Arquette comes up trumps as the wife bemused by the journey's surprises, such as the sudden arrival of an old school friend with a passion for licking her armpits.

The film is a lighter affair than *Spanking the Monkey*. It is also more conventional, and the mechanics of farce begin to poke through once the troupe arrive at Alda and Tomlin's hippy paradise in New Mexico. But there is still plenty of offbeat hilarity en route. When visiting your newly discovered mother, what do you say when you spy a framed drawing of Ronald Reagan? What face do you pull when you destroy her glass animal display, or realise you might have been conceived in a liquor warehouse in Baton Rouge? It's great fun finding out.

Forced to imagine a film written and directed by Tom Hanks, you might very well dream up *That Thing You Do!*. The film smiles at us. It celebrates and mourns innocence, and is set in early 1964, when the Beatles appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show and galvanised a country still in shock over Kennedy's assassination. It is charming, or tries to be. And it is never, for one moment, exciting.

Hanks plays a subsidiary role in this tale of a pop group that achieves one hit and self-destructs: he appears as the executive at Play-Tone Records, orchestrating the group's brief success from behind dark glasses. But you can also spot Hanks in the cheery demeanour of Tom Everett Scott's Guy Patterson, the appliance store salesman in Erie, Pennsylvania, who deputises for a local band's drummer and kick-starts their rise to fame.

At first the group is called the Oneders. The spelling is then changed to the Wonders. They have a hit, *That Thing You Do!*. They go on tour. They reach California, make a movie, and then disintegrate. The plot is small enough to fit on a matchbox, although you could never use it to light a fire: the film's blandness is overwhelming.

Characterisations are either wispy or over-simplified. In the case of the band members, they have their songs to carry

them (all numbers are newly composed, however dated they sound). But with Liv Tyler, the group's tagalong fan and girlfriend, there are only smiles and awkward speeches. "I have wasted thousands and thousands of kisses on you!" she bleats when she gives songwriter Johnathon Schaech the air.

As director, Hanks risks little, apart from shooting one scene from inside a washing machine. His simple approach may be appropriate to his warm-hearted tale, although a bolder hand and a sharper edge might have disguised the vacuity and dramatic torpor that seriously reduce the film's appeal. So what precisely is that thing you do? Yawn, most likely.

The *Frighteners* expects an audience to switch at the drop of a hat from shrieking with fear to chortling with glee. This is not easy, especially when the story is garbled and the central character, a swindling exorcist played by Michael J. Fox, remains so unsympathetic.

Peter Jackson's previous film, the imaginative *Heavenly Creatures*, suggested that this horror aficionado was finally leaving juvenile pranks behind. *The Frighteners*, filmed in New Zealand but bankrolled by Hollywood, in-

dicates that the man has regressed. Walls and ceilings bulge with shapes from the beyond. An army of ectoplasm runs riot, chattering, complaining, being grotesque. The Hollywood budget ensures smooth special effects, but does nothing to stop the jokes falling flat or the script blundering between moods as Fox's bogus psychic tumbles upon a supernatural killing spree.

Relief arrives with *Like Grains of Sand*, a piercingly sensitive, exquisitely made Japanese film about the confusions of love and sexual identity among high-school students. This contains the week's most striking sequence: a beautifully sustained scene in which the hero, Shuji, declares his affections and

begs a kiss and a hug from his best male friend, Hiroyuki, who stands to attention, stiff but obliging while flames of passion flicker around him.

The camera stays still, transfixed by the human drama. Throughout, the director Ryosuke Hashiguchi refuses to be sidetracked by superfluous details. There are no showy settings: this is a tale set in classrooms, corridors, lavatories, band rehearsals. Hashiguchi also avoids undue melodrama, although melodrama is frequently invited by the story about a triangular relationship between the two boys and a new girl pupil.

The film is slightly overlong at more than two hours, but it does not pay to be inattentive; blink, and you might miss the tender glimpse of a hand caressing a beloved's footprint in the sand.

"MAGNIFICENT"  
ANDREW ROBBINS - THE GUARDIAN

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FILM REVIEW

"A GREAT LAUGH"  
FILM REVIEW

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Brett Anderson  
talks about  
music and the  
music business  
on the pop page

VISUAL ART: Isabel Carlisle talks to John Golding, the curator of the RA's stunning new Braque exhibition

# The urbane space man goes solo

Braque described his close artistic relationship with Picasso between 1909 and 1914, when the two were working on the creation of Cubism, as being "rather like two men who are roped together". Although the two artists "went their separate ways", Braque's exhibition has remained a landmark in the history of Cubism, and is now being shown in a new context.

The exhibition, which opens today at the Royal Academy, *Braque: The Late Works*, seeks to bring Braque out from Picasso's shadow. There has not been a major exhibition of Braque in this country since 1956. The painter and art historian John Golding, who is the curator of this new show, says that Braque is consequently "a big unknown, particularly his late work — even in France people don't know about it".

While the early Cubist works fragmented and faceted objects in a revolutionary way, Braque spent the last 20 years of his life experimenting with the pleasing and folding of space. Golding says: "Braque took conclusions from Cubism that were very different from Picasso's. Picasso had a desire to possess things in their entirety, and Cubism allowed him to seize the object. Braque was not possessive at all — for him Cubism was space. Objects only interested him in so far as they set up a dialogue."

Much of Braque's late work was painted in series and within the boundaries of a single theme — his studio interior: birds, billiard tables. Golding laments that four major works are missing from the show but says that with six out of eight from the *Atelier Studio* series, "we have done better than anyone has ever done before. Braque was a very private person, which perhaps is why his work has always appealed to a particularly reticent kind of collector who doesn't want to lend. Many collectors have refused to part with works."

The walls of the Academy are covered in a soft, pale greyish-green cloth, chosen by Golding to bring out the warmth in the paintings. The canvases are placed far apart. "The pictures are so full of space themselves that they lose it if hung too close," says Golding. They are also demanding in that "Braque takes more looking at than



John Golding supervises the hanging of exhibits: "Braque takes more looking at than any artist you can think of. We are putting benches in the big room so that people can sit"

any artist you can think of. We are putting benches in the big room so that people can sit and look for as long as they like."

The first gallery is hung with wartime pictures, mostly still-lives of Braque's house and studio in Paris to which he returned in 1940. "They are very subdued," says Golding, "which sets the tone for the exhibition. It is during the war that Braque moves into his final manner and it is very contemplative, even rather sad." Outstanding among these, *The Stove* with an empty coal bucket on the floor, and *Large Interior with Palette*, painted in shades of khaki, evoke the drabness of wartime Paris.

A room of still-lives charts the evolution of Braque's style "from decorative to spiritual metaphysics" exploring the nature of reality, says Golding. Golding's favourite

is *The Double Bouquet*. If he could own a Braque, this is the one he would choose. "The line down the middle shows no reality is ultimate; everything has its counterpart and alternative." The distinct outlines of the brightly lit vase and table on the right seem to be separated by a thin door from a similar but shadowy and softer scene on the left. In some of the paintings, such as *The Two Windows*, it is hard to make out what the objects are, but Golding says that is not important. "Braque didn't necessarily want the objects in his pictures to be identified, they are meditations and mysteries."

The huge third room in which the series of *Billiard Tables* and *Ateliers* are hung has all the experimental monochromes on one wall, and the brighter canvases opposite. "The climax of the *Atelier* series is number 8," says Golding.

"It marks the moment when he comes out of his monochrome period. Braque felt he had put a lifetime's experience into *Studio VIII*," which is coloured and fragmented like a stained glass window.

Nobody knows what attracted Braque to billiard tables, which in his paintings he bends and angles both horizontally and vertically. "They are so intractable, such ugly objects that perhaps it was a challenge to render them in terms of deliquescent space," Golding suggests.

The birds and landscapes have the last room to themselves. "Braque had two serious illnesses in the 1940s, and the birds are farewells in a sense," says Golding. In *Composition with Stars* (hung

with the *Studio Atelier* series), where a great yellow bird is stepping down from the canvas on the easel and the unresolved chaos of shapes and colours gives way above to a night sky with stars, Golding believes that Braque was thinking very much about death. Although Braque claimed that the birds did not symbolise anything, Golding feels they came to represent the creative process.

"The birds travel only horizontally, not upwards. He wanted a space that he could chart, not infinity." The birds also proved a way of making landscape space graspable. The landscapes were largely painted from snapshots that Braque took while being driven between his home in Varangeville in Normandy, and Paris.

In the spring of 1956, shortly after Golding's book on Cubism had

been published, he was taken to meet Braque in Varangeville. "He was a wonderful looking man, especially his head, and beautifully dressed. He showed me round his studio but I was shy and we didn't talk much. Braque had a wry, slightly peasanty slant on life and everything he said was very pondered. He loved poetry. His own meditations are deeply poetic and he owed a lot to Pascal. Today Braque is a cult figure among artists but it is very hard to point to evidence of a direct influence. It tends to be more of a philosophical influence."

"I have been very influenced by Braque in my painting," Golding says. "I try to fold light in my pictures in the way Braque folds space."

● Braque runs until April 6 at the Royal Academy (0171-439 7438)

## Spud you'll like

TO JUDGE by the press build-up for John Hegley's new show, *Dancing with Potatoes*, audiences could have been forgiven for thinking, or fearing, that he was about to reinvent himself as a one-man Ballet Rambert. Rest assured that his newfound interest in choreography still takes second place in verbal dexterity.

In fact, *Dancing with Words* would be a much better title for his display. Hegley has such an artful way with language that it seems unfair to label him a mere comedian. Better, perhaps, to think of his performance as a poetry reading with comic interludes. What makes his humour particularly appealing is its sense of being grounded in real life and real experiences, rather than the latest Gold Blend commercial. In his mock-solemn dance excursions, a potato held daintily aloft in one

COMEDY

**Dancing with Potatoes**  
Bloomsbury

hand, Hegley can be as ironic and postmodern as any of his peers on the comedy circuit. But time after time we found ourselves snubbing our nose against a painful childhood memory or a surreal account of a conversation half-overheard on a bus or train.

Hearing him intone his verse, I could not help being reminded of the wonderful Bejamen travelogue currently being aired on Channel 4. Hegley's writing may not possess the same formal depth, but he shares a similar delight in mundane detail and the cramped landscape of domestic life.

The desultory pace of the show's first half proved a slight drawback in a venue as large as the Bloomsbury. When you are too far away to see the eyes glinting behind the spectacles, some of the tension and spontaneity is almost certain to be dissipated. The longer set-pieces — one a surreal monologue about a journey through an enchanted dog kennel and an encounter with a wanion Joan of Arc — were bound to be hit-and-miss affairs, too.

But, however unresolved the material appeared to be at times, Hegley maintained momentum with well-judged detours into affectionate pop song pastiche, accompanied at the guitar by the plump and uncommunicative "Nigel". The equally deadpan Tony Curtis joined in on brief sequences which were an expressionist blend of morris dancing and Twyla Tharp.

CLIVE DAVIS

CONCERTS: Kremer in London; Edwards in Liverpool

SCHUBERT is being copiously celebrated in his bicentennial year. But few of the festivities are likely to be as enterprising as the programmes Gidon Kremer will be touring to Amsterdam, Paris, Cologne and London. With characteristic vision he is putting Schubert's music alongside commissioned new pieces, making for a fascinatingly diverse set of responses to the Schubertian spirit.

The first of the Barbican concerts featured the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen in enjoyable new works from Sofia Gubaidulina and Alexander Vustin. *Impromptu* may not be Gubaidulina's most personal statement, and at 15 minutes it was perhaps too long for what it had to say. But it is music packed with witty juxtaposi-

## Spirit of Schubert lives on

tions of a motto theme, taken from Schubert's *A flat Impromptu*. A solo flute, played by the brilliant Irena Grafenauer, got most of the "tunes", while Kremer's violin provided grimmer counter-ideas.

Vustin's *Fantasy for Violin and Orchestra*, which also received its British premiere, takes a tangibly Russian approach to Schubert. Only the middle of its three short movements, a dark meditation, does not quote directly, in the opening *Buffo*, solo violin

pyrotechnics and percussion-heavy scoring give way to a Schubertian melody.

Even more striking is the motif's mirage-like re-appearance, solo violin and piano alone, in the middle of the turbulent finale. It would be simple to drop the few spoken lines, representing the composer's voice, which jarred even when delivered "meaningfully" by Rodrigo Blumenstock, the steady conductor.

Kremer was also the elegant soloist in Schubert's three works for violin and orchestra. The admirable orchestra played Weber's warm-hearted arrangements of Schubert's Six German Dances with vigour, but its crisp, diaphanous sound was best disclosed in the *Overture in C*.

JOHN ALLISON

## Russian rhythms

make a sensational effect on minimal rehearsal.

It was a brilliant achievement also on the part of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, which sounded happier under that kind of pressure than in the compara-

tively easy-going conditions of *In the Steppes of Central Asia*. At the beginning of the concert Borodin's barely supported melodic lines were not heard to their best advantage. Edwards and the RLPO did, on the other hand, do justice to Rachmaninov's Third Symphony. Virtuoso craftsmanship, which is what the work is about, was rewarded by similar accomplishment in the orchestra.

The soloist in Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto was the RLPO's principal cellist, Paul Marley, who would have been wise to choose something else. The problem was not that he lacks the technical equipment for it. It was more a matter of nerve, to get him through the opening bars with an impression of authority. It is a concerto for an experienced soloist with not only a nimble technique and a fine ear, but also a developed sound and a philosophical turn of mind.

GERALD LARNER

## Ginger isn't indispensable

THE Chris Evans affair has at least proved that Matthew Bannister, Controller of Radio 1 and the BBC's new Director of Radio, has a classy sense of humour. The day after Evans resigned last week Bannister rented the main neon hoarding in Piccadilly Circus for the plea: "Wanted, Radio 1 Breakfast Show DJ, Ginger hair an advantage. Must work five day week."

The ad was scheduled to run for a week. But tear up that application: Bannister chose Mark Radcliffe, another Radio 1 presenter, as the new host some days ago, before Evans failed to turn up for work on Monday. Radcliffe will be formally announced tomorrow.

But if Bannister has shown he can take a joke, has he missed a PR opportunity? I think so, and so do many within the BBC. One measure of people is how they behave while working out notice. When Evans went AWOL, Bannister could have sacked him. Bannister was tough when Evans asked for Fridays off, reflecting the view I expressed to Radio 4's PM when Evans resigned: that for his money, I would work two Fridays a week.

But Bannister admires Evans, who is a brilliant if wayward broadcaster. "The Fat Controller", as Evans calls Bannister, chose not to be as tough on Monday. Perhaps he felt no need to cock his own gun when Evans had shot himself in the foot, but the impression was that Evans had been allowed to take the initiative.

Need we give a hoot about

any of this? Up to a point. Pop music radio is much like football: it matters, but it's not important. Evans brought 800,000 new listeners to Radio 1 at a time of the day when crucial audience-building is going on. Much of the Evans appeal lay in his unusual ability to attract the so-called "four to fourteens" as well as young adults.

Whereas the audience for, say, Radio 4 seems to arrive at a certain age and with certain other trappings — marriage and a family saloon — the Radio 1 audience evolves differently and the station needs presenters who can talk to children as if they were adults and to adults without sounding patronising. But Evans's achievement was subject to the law of diminishing returns. Most of the new audience he brought in is likely to hold.

Nobody earning £1 million a year needs our sympathy, but that emotion should not be withheld on the same grounds. Evans had a genuine problem on Fridays, up before the sun for *The Breakfast Show* and up with the moon for Channel 4's *TFI Friday*. But that was his choice.

His departure gave other BBC presenters a held day: the airwaves have been littered with Evans jokes all week. John Inverdale on Radio 5 Live concluded an item about the French bank staff who took their own bosses hostage by announcing: "Maybe they wanted Fridays off." Thus are the mighty fallen and swiftly re-shaped on the anvil of humour.

PETER BARNARD

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Lewis Wolpert brings science's past to light

# It's results that matter

All histories are hidden until someone reveals them. This is no more true of science than of any other subject. Yet the editor's aim with these five essays is to explore the theme, initiated by Oliver Sacks, of forgotten and neglected moments in the history of scientific discovery. This choice is somewhat puzzling as even the slightest familiarity with the history of science shows how tortuous its progress can be. Scientific research is difficult and the ratio of reward to personal investment can be very low when the risk is high. So one should not be surprised when scientists do not immediately recognise the importance of a new discovery. Judgments based on hindsight can be rather self-indulgent.

Two of the essays here have little to do with the history of science. Richard Lewontin has written a rather strange attack on the role of genes as the key factors determining the character of organisms. He believes that the environment plays a major role and that there is a continual interaction between the internal and external milieus.

This is a view that is completely out of keeping with our understanding of how organisms develop and how they evolve. It is the genes that are the carriers of the information that controls our embryonic development; it is only changes in the genes that are responsible for evolution. Of course the environment needs to be a suitable one, but that is no more than saying that one needs to plug the computer

into the electricity supply to make it work. Stephen Jay Gould examines the iconography of evolution and questions the 19th-century view of progress; placing human beings at the top of the evolutionary tree does little justice to all those enormously successful insects and bacteria. Also the idea of progress excludes contingency and luck. If the evolutionary scenario were run again, but with slightly different conditions, would human beings evolve? He thinks not.

A remarkable mental phenomenon is blindsight, in

## HIDDEN HISTORIES OF SCIENCE

Edited by Robert B. Silvers

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which patients with brain damage deny being able to see an event yet respond to it. This shows there is indeed a perceptual competence below the level of overt consciousness. Jonathan Miller takes us through the history of the "unconscious", going back to the early days of hypnotism. He thinks that there was neglect of the evidence for unconscious mental events and that Freud's influence, with his emphasis on its censorious function, has distracted attention away from its other vital functions.

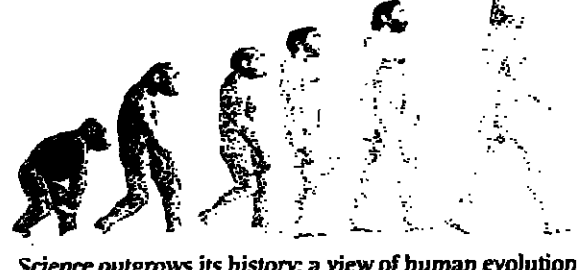
We now have a very good understanding of the nature of cancer. This is largely due to the studies on viruses that

can induce cells to become cancerous. Human cancers are rarely caused by viruses but, as Daniel Kelves recounts, that early discovery led to the recognition that cancer can result from mutations in normal genes in the cells that resemble those of the cancer-inducing viruses. But that discovery involved painful failures, false trails, denials, resistance to new ideas and brilliant science.

Oliver Sacks tells of the complexity of advances in neurology. He has an occasion had to go back to papers written in the last century to find an adequate account of an illness, as in the case of Tourette's syndrome. This must be a peculiarity of his field — the measure of a good scientific paper is usually how many other papers it makes irrelevant.

Sacks is intrigued by prematurity in science; a discovery is premature when it does not fit in with the current thinking and cannot be easily linked to it. A classic example is Wegener's theory of continental drift, for which he was initially vilified. But Sacks is wrong to think that Avery's discovery of the ability of DNA to change the character of bacteria was premature — several very distinguished scientists immediately recognised its importance. And it was Pasteur, not Bernard, who said that fortune favours the prepared mind. My favourite example of those who did not have such minds are all those who, for hundreds of years, saw a pendulum swinging and did not, like Galileo, recognise that the period of the swing depends only on the length of the pendulum's cord.

Science is truly progressive. In the long run individuals do not matter, even the geniuses, who only speed things up. Given a different group of scientists, the history would have been different but the results and understanding the same. Contrary to a suggestion of Sacks, science always outgrows its history.



Science outgrows its history: a view of human evolution



Woman of power: the 6th-century Byzantine rulers Theodora and Justinian; contemporary mosaic, San Vitale, Ravenna

## Murmurs, pleasures and arts

Four elegant footnotes. Two left in the concealing modesty of Greek, converted by Edward Gibbon's contempt for one of the most powerful women in history. The Empress Theodora, joint ruler with her husband Justinian in 6th-century Constantinople, was a former prostitute and comedienne whose charity to young men was "universal" and whose alleged fondness for wildlife would even today confine her to the hardcore magazines. Yet this unlikely imperial pair built

one of the world's most graceful buildings, consolidated Roman law into a form in which it is still studied today and by force of arms almost reunited the Eastern and Western Empires of Rome. Gibbon was forever free with his blame and grudging in his praise. Even the magnificent church of St Sophia, he judged, was dull and insignificant when compared with "the formation of the vilest insect" on its surface. All Justinian's fine buildings were "cemented with the blood and treasure of his people". *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* was not just his title: it was his thesis. Successful barbarian rulers, who held back the descent of events for a while, had to be carefully manipulated into the chronicle of collapse.

The story of how Britain's greatest historian solved this problem is one of 15 essays in this bicentenary collection published in memory of the inspirational writer and teacher Angus McInyre. There are lessons here not only for those concerned with architecture, law and sexual practice in the late Empire. When we have so much "declinist" history of our own today, how can we spot when the better times are being buried under the avalanche of the worst?

Gibbon had an unusual helper in his task of squaring his general thesis of "lardy,

doubtful and ineffectual" aid given by the "Oriental Romans" after the fall of the West with the activity of Justinian in sending major expeditions to recapture Rome and Ravenna from the Goths. The historian Procopius, who accompanied the Imperial General Belisarius on his campaigns, wrote two very different accounts.

The first, which Gibbon read in translation before going up to Oxford at the age of 14, covered, and generally praised, the action of the wars themselves. The second was

concise account of how Gibbon used the public history to praise the achievements of lawyers, architects and generals and the private version to place Justinian and his partner firmly on the slope of imperial decline: no great men or women could afterwards be secure in history until the diaries of their intimates had been revealed. The editors conclude, too, that towards the end of the massive work the idea of decline has become more a literary than an analytical device: it takes an exceptionally narrow-minded bigot to betray the facts to a philosophy for 3,000 pages.

Gibbon, unlike some of his successors in charting empires' decline, was no bigot. He could not, however, deny his anti-clerical delight in the Church's attitude to Theodora, first in concealing her secret history in the Vatican library for 500 years and then in promulgating "her murmurs, her pleasures and her arts". One of Gibbon's four footnotes follows an outrageous sexual description in Greek with a note, in English, that "a learned prelate, now deceased, was fond of quoting this passage in conversation". Cameron notes without comment the suggestion that the unnamed holy man was the friend of Alexander Pope and the self-styled scourge of "libertine scribblers". William Warburton, Bishop of Gloucester,

### Peter Stothard

#### EDWARD GIBBON AND EMPIRE

Edited by Rosamond McKitterick and Roland Quinault

Cambridge University Press, £40

ISBN 0 521 40724 8

the so-called *Secret History*, which dwelt "with malevolent pencil" on the private life of the palace circle. Gibbon came to this hidden source somewhat later in life and his first edition of the work omitted some of the grosser stories about Theodora. But he seems to have soon found an unexpurgated copy and he drew on it heavily for his overall picture of the time.

Averil Cameron gives a

## On the Russian road

VENEDIKT YEROFEEV was born in 1938 and died of alcoholism in 1990. Unlike the older generations, biographically he was a pure product of Soviet totalitarianism. Where writers as dissimilar as Babel, Zoshchenko or Platonov, who had all experienced a free Russia in their youth, developed diverse ways of apprehending and depicting Soviet reality, their writing remained bound to what one might describe as the literary taste of civilisation. Yefreev, born into barbarism, was free of that singular constraint.

In this he resembles nothing so much as his Western counterparts of the 1950s and 1960s — Jack Kerouac, William Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg —

### Andrei Navrozov

#### MOSCOW STATIONS

By Venedikt Yefreev

Faber, £14.99

ISBN 0 571 19004 9

who arrived at the same intellectual destination by a very different road. The shared flaw in the literary method which these writers' madness aims to obscure is an aggressively relativised concept of originality, based on a tacit agreement with the audience that what appears banal is in fact ironic, while what seems vulgar is *ipso facto* truthful. Of course it helped that the audience, bombed out of its critical mind, was eager for mutual understanding.

The boundaries of taste, which civilisation in Russia and elsewhere in Europe had been able to objectify by busy cultural means, used to serve as a barrier to such facile solutions. But what mattered to Yefreev and his Soviet generation was that the barrier had been politically reinforced by Stalin, which meant that tearing it down was in and of itself a good thing.

MAGIC mushrooms and LSD being unavailable, the beatification of the protagonist of *Moscow Stations* is attained by means of ordinary vodka. His life's journey is here distilled into several hours of a drunken nightmare aboard a suburban train. The intellectual "quality" of his — and his companions' — foul-mouthed hallucinations during this picaresque excursion is highly uneven, ranging from tolerably good jokes at the expense of Soviet puritanism to pseudo-profound insights into the nature of man. The overall effect is a kind of demonic bunkum, in which flashes of serious talent and the genuine suffering of a ruined man can nonetheless be discerned.

Yefreev is as far removed from the generation of Russian writers immediately preceding him as a Coptic hermit of the 2nd century AD was from the great civilisations of Greece and Egypt. But periods of demonstrable decline have their luminaries, who in turn garner their share of admirers. Mulrine's translation is a labour of love, reproducing the inebriated contortions of the original with a colloquial ease that would have charmed Frank Zappa.

## Intelligent even among friends

### Sean French

#### BLIND BITTER HAPPINESS

By Adam Mars-Jones

Chino & Windus, £5.99

ISBN 0 7011 6017 7

#### DOOM PATROLS

A Theoretical Fiction about Postmodernism

By Steven Shavro

Serpent's Tail, £11

ISBN 1 85242 400 3

#### LET IT BLEED

Essays 1985-1995

By Gary Indiana

Serpent's Tail, £11

ISBN 1 85242 322 3



Ghost in the machine? The Rolling Stones in 1981

T.S. ELIOT once wrote that there was only one critical method: to be very intelligent. Adam Mars-Jones's collection of 13 essays could seem like a ragbag of the sort of reviews, interviews and memoirs that many writers produce. But what unites them is the conviction that you can fruitfully bring a mandarin intelligence to bear on anything.

An avowedly gay critic himself, Mars-Jones begins with a devastating review of the autobiography of Gore Vidal, a writer with whom he might have felt himself in allegiance. We have been warned: Mars-Jones plays no favourites. Nor does he lower his standards.

He devotes 30 pages of closely reasoned criticism to a pot-boiling gay thriller called *Verminion*, demonstrating very entertainingly, if not unexpectedly, that it's not very good. The article was a preface to a selection of gay fiction, but since he has removed it from that context and placed it in his own book, its purpose must apply to himself also, which is to set himself "as much against the expectations of subcultural commerce, as against the studied indifference of the dominant culture".

What that means in practice is Mars-Jones never stops being intelligent, even when he is among friends. The funniest article in the book is an account of a grisly evening spent in a hotel room with Mick Jagger and Charlie

Watts. Mars-Jones's account of the embarrassments and absurdities is eerily precise, but for the full effect it should have been explained, as it was when the article was first published 15 years ago, that he wasn't interviewing them: Jagger was interviewing him about ghosting his memoirs.

There's a lovely encounter with Boy George and a brilliant essay on disability in the cinema, but just when you start thinking that it must be tiring to be so clever all the time, you get to a piece that justifies his method perfectly: the title essay, a beautiful memoir of the author's mother. It is an authentic narrative, beautifully written, coolly analytical, yet it really is about Sheila and not about Adam.

except that in all its attentiveness to detail and the heroism of a life, it has the love of a son. The story of his mother is told in the past tense and the reader expects it to culminate in her death. But then, suddenly, he shifts to the present tense and there she is with her grandchildren and the effect is almost overwhelming.

What actually is Post-Modernism? According to Steven Shavro, to the true Post-Modern sensibility "there's no contradiction between cool and hot, irony and passion, playfulness and commitment, excitement and disgust, pleasure and anxiety, or camp, distancing and involvement to the point of delicious obsession". Yes, another lot of essays about celebrity, the information age, ideas that can be dipped into without a

Sean French is co-author of *The Memory Game* by Nick French, published by Heinemann, priced £12.99.

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CHANGING TIMES



# Sleight of a master's hand

From his first book, *Drawn to Trouble*, I concluded that the late Eric Hebborn was a windy braggart who rambled on boasting that some day he would reveal all his "perfect" fakes that have up to now fooled all the experts worldwide.

Admittedly, there were some intriguing anecdotes in that first effort and a few priceless pointers about how he crafted fakes, thus making it invaluable for unmasking them — especially revealing how he divined the speed at which the Old Master draughtsman worked and then practised so that he could achieve the same seemingly unerring whip of the hand which makes true Old Masters convincing. Yet, I found his Old Master drawing predictable and flawed by his obsession to add blemishes that doubled, even tripled those of his model.

In this second and final book *The Art Forger's Handbook* Eric Hebborn has forced me to reconsider his talents. Though he hasn't revealed those "magnificent" fakes, he has written a scintillating, delightful and thoroughly dangerous work.

Any collector, Old Master drawings dealer or museum curator who has bought works in the past five years should rush to order this book. I wish I had had this in any form when I was slogging through graduate school in art history where few words were spoken about forgeries.

Also, I wish this volume had been on my desk when I became the director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. I would have ordered a dozen for the Prints and Drawings Department and badgered the curatorial staff — "Have you read it? Have you spotted a Hebborn out there on the market — or in our own collections?"

The *Handbook* is not without flaws. It weakens after the author starts lecturing us on

Tom Hoving reassesses an imposter's subtle talents — and his own collection of drawings

drawing in my own collection. French late 18th century, had to be modern, yet, unfortunately not Hebborn.

Hebborn lays out a fascinating list of how-tos: how to cut a quill ("First find an amenable bird"); how to make a copper pen; the true secrets of silver point; the creation of tinted paper; the ageing process for papers, inks and charcoal; glues; sizes; and which masters to forge — the ones you love, of course. I found myself engrossed in what normally would be

pretty dull technical stuff. But Hebborn is continually witty about his "scientific" subject matter and the how-to sections are never bogged down in jargon.

The illustrations in the *Handbook* are superior and admirably back up the author's keen observations, except when he wanders on about how excellent he is at cranking out Old Master paintings.

One pair of illustrations, plates 5 and 6, sum up for me the frightening talent of the late Eric

Hebborn and his rather cruel wit aimed at the pompous art experts that seem not to be an endangered species. The pair illustrate two drawings by the Venetian 18th-century master Giandomenico Tiepolo, one by the artist and the other by Hebborn. The caption for the stunning fake states, "This forgery, made for an exhibition of Hebborn's work in 1994, was viewed with some interest by the Old Master experts of all the major auction houses, who collectively judged it to be a poor representation of Giandomenico's style."

Tom Hoving's latest book, *False Impressions*, is published by André Deutsch, priced £20.



Playing a dangerous game of spot the difference: top, *Nessus Seizing Deianira*, by Giandomenico Tiepolo (1727-1804), brush and wash, was sold at Sotheby's, London, in 1996 for £8,625; bottom, Eric Hebborn's forgery, painted in sepia ink and brown wash for a 1994 exhibition of his work — which was viewed with interest by Old Master Drawings experts of many of the major auction houses who collectively judged it to be a poor representation of Giandomenico's style. *Caveat emptor*.

THE ART FORGER'S  
HANDBOOK  
By Eric Hebborn  
Casell, £20  
ISBN 0 304 34914 3

the history of Old Master paintings materials and how to make craquelure, or what to do to disguise the fact that you, as a faker, haven't had grandmother whip up some handmade linen canvas for you. In formulating a time-line for various paints — when they came into usage and bowed out — he actually misses several of the most dazzling. One of these is lead tin yellow which appears in virtually every authentic picture of the 17th century and stopped being used abruptly around 1710 — and truly clever fakers are sure to include it in their Caravaggios and Guido Renis and Georges de la Tours and Bassanos to delude the experts. But working in Rome Hebborn was perhaps out of touch.

Besides he is, despite his claims otherwise, a third-rate Old Master paintings limner. The Bassano he illustrates (the one that was featured in a BBC film about his illustrious powers back in 1994) which was half old and unfinished and half-Hebborn is, frankly, embarrassing in its amateurish daubery when the old faker took over.

But when it comes to drawings, watch out! His time-line for paper, ink and pencil is unique in my knowledge — from now on when I encounter a certain graphite pencil mark in, say, 1755, I'll chuckle, knowing that the material was born in 1790.

Tips virtually on the level of E-mic abound in his chapters, amusingly entitled: "The Devil's Kitchen", "If All the World Were Paper", and "And All the Sea Were Ink". He confides, "The first business of the forger of Old Master drawings is collect a stock of period paper," and then lets the reader know of his canny and remarkably easy procedures of obtaining pure and gorgeous unmarked pieces of 18th century stock for the forger's Tiepolo or Goya.

I learned more about watermarks in the short passage on how to cobble up those items and about the exact step-by-step way to prepare an "ancient" paper than I ever knew. I had to laugh because suddenly I realised that one modest

## Chasing missiles in the South Atlantic

Frank Cooper

THE SECRET WAR  
FOR THE  
FALKLANDS  
The SAS, MI6  
and the War  
Whitehall  
Nearly Lost

By Nigel West  
Linda Brown, £17.50  
ISBN 0 316 82267 7



Desirable and deadly: the French-made Exocet in action

outful descriptions of some of the protagonists. There is a wealth of technical and operational detail.

An analysis is given of how the British sought to decide what might be the best way to find and destroy the Argentine Super Etendards and the remaining air-launched Exocets. There is an account of an aborted SAS reconnaissance on the Argentine port of Tierra del Fuego.

There is speculation as well as fact. Intelligence entails speculation. But the author has sought to reach balanced judgments. He raises relevant questions about the conclusions of the Franks' committee, which reported on the events leading to the war. He sheds light on some unresolved questions. He makes a strong case in favour of the March 25, 1982, not the widely accepted March 29, being the date the Junta decided to invade the Falklands. But was this decision simply a piece of opportunism using the annual joint naval exercises with Uruguay as a cover? Had the decision been longer in gestation? Was the timing determined by the political plight of the Junta?

The invasion was a surprise

to all — the Americans included. Colonel Love, the British Defence Attaché in Buenos Aires, rightly gets an honourable mention for his presence — as do the Chileans. But no one got it right. Intelligence information is very different from forecasting intentions.

Hindsight suggests that if Britain had invested more

heavily in intelligence in Latin America the Falklands issue might have been given proper prominence, supported by more knowledge and wisdom. Intelligence about Argentina and its forces was rudimentary. At the heart of British policy towards the Falklands issue had been the avoidance of provocative action. It failed. Britain was right to put

much SIS effort into denying Argentine access to more Exocets. The Exocet was a bogey weapon. The Falklands operation was a high risk one by any standards. Could more air-launched Exocets have brought about defeat? The probability is that had there been more, some would have got through. Defence against fast-moving missile attack is tough. Britain is becoming missile minded at only a stately pace. A more relevant question is why did the Argentines not wait until after September 1982, by which time all their air-launched Exocets would have been delivered?

Nigel West's book is enjoyable to read. Occasionally it seems to have been written in a hurry — or it may be over-enthusiastic. It illustrates clearly both the strengths and limitations of intelligence. It also shows that there is a continuing need for intelligence in a complex world, where arms are international.

Sir Frank Cooper was Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence during the Falklands War.

Henry Leach

AMPHIBIOUS  
ASSAULT  
FALKLANDS  
The Battle of  
San Carlos Water

By Michael Clapp and  
Ewen Southby-Tailyour  
Leo Cooper, £18.95  
ISBN 0 85052 420 2

single-minded and crucial war which attracted the admiration of the world. Had Britain not embarked on this operation, despite the odds, and had she not been entirely successful, today we would be living in a very different country whose word counted for little.

This book is a substantial contribution to the history of that success.

Admiral Sir Henry Leach was Chief of Naval Staff and First Sea Lord, 1979-82.

## Veteran of German life and letters

Daniel Johnson

ERNST JÜNGER  
AND GERMANY  
Into the Abyss,  
1914-1945

By Thomas Nevin  
Constable, £20  
ISBN 0 09 474500 9

On March 29, Europe's greatest living man of letters should, God willing, celebrate his 102nd birthday. Ernst Jünger is old enough to have lived through notoriety, oblivion and rediscovery twice.

He acquired notoriety as a spokesman for the Prussian officer caste who disdained Corporal Hitler's vulgarity, but were still gravediggers of German democracy. Officially ignored under the Nazis, for French intellectuals he came to symbolise a more civilised Germany during the war, and Miterrand and Kohl shared an admiration for the old warrior. Having remained at his post under the Nazis, he went into Swiss exile and out of fashion after their demise.

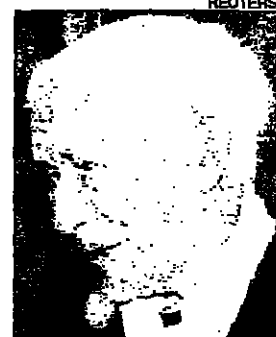
The Bonn Republic passed him by, just as the Weimar Republic had done. Now that Germany is reunited, Jünger remains as a last witness to the Reich — not Hitler's but Bismarck's.

In the English-speaking world this prodigiously productive novelist, essayist, diarist and travel writer is generally ignored: only a handful of his 50 volumes have been translated. John Keegan has castigated Jünger as a teutonic Tolkien. If Jünger's martial artistry is belittled even by our leading military historian, one despairs of his reputation in a pacific age.

For Jünger is a veteran in the literal as well as the literary sense. After running away from boarding school to join the Foreign Legion, he became a real hero during the First World War: as a lieutenant commanding stormtrooper units, Jünger suffered 13 wounds and won virtually every decoration the Kaiser had to award, including the *Pour le mérite*, the most coveted of all. In the 1920s he was Germany's Rupert Brooke and Lawrence of Arabia rolled into one. He once wrote for a Nazi newspaper, but never joined the party; Goebbels despaired of recruiting a man who associated with Jews and Bolsheviks.

In the Second World War his military service was mostly spent in the relative safety of occupied Paris, but his secret anti-Nazi writings and his links with the German opposition placed him in peril. His personal acquaintance with danger and death makes him more difficult to judge harshly than armchair intellectuals who plumped for the Nazis.

The life is extraordinary; but are the books any good? Jünger's masterpiece, *On the Marble Cliffs*, has been widely hailed as an allegory of Nazi tyranny, with sharp caricatures of Goering and Goebbels. Thomas Nevin disagrees, seeing it instead as a symptom of the disease — fatalism — it seeks to diagnose. He subjects Jünger's early works to intelligent but often incon-



Ernst Jünger at 100

clusive and sometimes needlessly obscurantist analysis. He does justice to the sublime terror which Jünger's books at their best can strike into the reader.

Nevin is less keen on Jünger as a thinker: his sinister 1932 dystopia *The Worker*, which inspired Heidegger to extravagant praise, is interpreted psychologically as a rebellion against his father's orderly world. But Jünger was not really a rebel: he evidently admired his erudite father, who was a wild character himself, and inherited his botanical, mineralogical and zoological interests, which are of incalculable importance for his writing. He even succumbed to his father's passion for chess.

Nevin's grasp of German history and culture is not entirely reliable. But he brings an infectious enthusiasm to his subject. Meeting Jünger in 1992 evidently made a powerful impact on Nevin, and what would have been a more critical treatment has become a tribute. I learnt a great deal from this book and I hope Nevin will write about the second half of Jünger's century, even if this antediluvian survivor will always remain an enigma.

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## FOOTBALL

# Good times beckon for manager of the year

By Russell Kempson

WHEN Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, turned up at a recent awards ceremony to take his place among the great and the good, he was just happy to be there. The guest list represented a Who's Who of British football, with Kinnear feeling almost out of place, yet he collected one of the most coveted awards — the 1996 FA Carling Premiership manager of the year.

It was endorsed by the League Managers' Association and the voting involved all of Kinnear's peers. If he needed any further indication that he had been officially accepted as one of the sport's leading managerial figures, this was it.

"I can honestly say, hand on my heart, that I had no idea at all that I had won the trophy," he said. "I went along with a few friends thinking we were just attending a function and that Alex Ferguson or the like would walk off with the award. When my name was read out, I was very unlike me, lost for words."

"It's taken a bit of time to recover from the shock, pleasant as it was, and while it is a great honour for me personally, it is an award that really belongs to Wimbledon Football Club. It is a reflection of the sheer graft, determination, humour, tears and toil of everyone here."

If 1996 was good, 1997 could be even better for Kinnear. Wimbledon lie fifth in the Premiership, with games in hand over their rivals, and have reached the semi-finals of the Coca-Cola Cup. On Tuesday night, they moved into the fourth round of the FA Cup — in which they play Manchester United at Old Trafford on Saturday — with an unspectacular yet ultimately comfortable 2-0 win against Crewe Alexandra, of the Nationwide League second division, in a third-round replay at Selhurst Park.

Kinnear, though, preached caution. "We're sometimes having to play three games a week and it's a frightening thought, particularly from an injuries point of view and the fitness of the players. We've a

lot of games coming up and, in many ways, I suppose we're the victims of our own success."

After the game at Old Trafford on Saturday, Wimbledon make a swift return trip to play United in the Premiership next Wednesday. They also have a three-match series against Leicester City to contemplate — two legs of the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final and, in between, a league match at Selhurst Park.

Leicester qualified for their cup clashes with Wimbledon by winning 1-0 against Ipswich Town at Portman Road in a delayed quarter-final tie. Mark Robins, transfer-listed and without a start for the club since September, scored the winning goal.

Robins recently spent a month on loan at FC Copenhagen, in Denmark, but is still hoping to earn favour with Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager. "I never asked to leave, that was the manager's decision," Robins said. "He told me he'd done it because I had only a limited chance of playing and he's been quite fair with me. I'm still not desperate to go."

"It's been frustrating, of course it has, but I've always believed in my ability and always thought I could score goals. It was nice to get the chance against Ipswich and even nicer that I took it."

Blackburn Rovers have been knocked back in their attempts to land the Poland striker, Marek Citko. Citko's club, Widzew Lodz, have rejected Blackburn's move to sign Citko on loan until the end of the season, saying that they are only interested in a straight cash deal.

Alex Penman, the chairman of Raith Rovers, is to leave the five club next month after a reported £270,000 buy-out. An extraordinary general meeting has been called on February 14 with changes to the Stark's Park board expected. Penman wanted to leave Raith last year, but stayed on to oversee last night's challenge match with Bayern Munich to mark the redevelopment of the stadium.



Stuart Pearce practises what he preaches as he takes a Nottingham Forest training session yesterday after confirming that he is to remain as the club's player-manager until the end of the season. Report, page 44

## Hednesford facing FA investigation Australia unbeaten under Venables

By Chris Moore

THE Football Association has launched an investigation into alleged irregularities over an application for funding made by Hednesford Town, the Vauxhall Conference club which is preparing to play the biggest match in its history on Saturday.

In a separate action, Hednesford, who meet Middlesbrough in an FA Cup fourth-round tie at the Riverside Stadium, are also being sued for more than £300,000 by a property development company.

The FA inquiry concerns an application made by Hednesford to the Sports Ground Initiative (SGI), which is administered by the Football Trust, was set up last year to assist sports clubs which are not eligible for Trust grants in order to carry out safety work required by the Taylor report.

A spokesman for the Football Trust said yesterday: "I can't go into details other than to confirm that the FA are carrying out an investigation into alleged irregularities relating to an application received from Hednesford Town."

Hednesford are also being sued for £321,017 by the Warwickshire company Nova Haven Ltd. A writ has been issued claiming that the club still owes the money for construction work carried out on its Keys Park stadium, which was opened 18 months ago. Until then, John Baldwin, the Hednesford manager and co-owner, had been employed for ten years by Nova Haven as the company accountant.

Work on the stadium was completed in time to meet a July 1995 deadline so that Hednesford's promotion to the Conference could be sanctioned. David Henscoe, the Nova Haven managing director, claims that the company has since been forced to cease trading.

Cartwright and Lewis, the Birmingham solicitors, confirmed yesterday that they are handling the writ against the club. Hednesford beat Blackpool and York City, from the Nationwide League, to reach the fourth round of the Cup. They were drawn at home to Middlesbrough, but switched the tie to the North East on police advice. The club is now thought likely to earn up to £100,000 in gate receipts and television revenue.

TERRY VENABLES continued his winning start as the new coach of Australia when his side beat South Korea 2-1 in Brisbane yesterday. Alistair Edwards, the former Millwall striker, came off the substitutes' bench to score what proved to be the winning goal in the 72nd minute.

Australia beat New Zealand 1-0 in their first game under the former England coach on Saturday, and are now the only unbeaten team in the four-nation tournament.

Bingley opened the scoring for Australia after they had dominated the first half. Edwards extended Australia's lead before Ha Seok Ju pulled one back for South Korea with 15 minutes remaining.

Stoke City have rejected an offer of £2.1 million for the forward, Mike Sheron, from Queens Park Rangers, their first division rivals. Jez Mosey, the Stoke chief executive, said reports that the two clubs had agreed a fee were "totally inaccurate".

Crystal Palace have completed the signing of Andy Linington, the Arsenal defender, for an undisclosed fee after talks with the player yesterday. Linington, 34, is ineligible for the FA Cup third-round replay against Leeds United on Saturday but will be available for Palace's first division match against Southend United on Tuesday.

Manchester City are giving a trial to Vaclav Nemecek, the Czech Republic international, as they attempt to strengthen their defence. The defender, 29, could be available for a nominal fee to the City manager, Frank Clark, who also has Dalian Atkinson, the Fenerbahce forward, training at the club this week.

Morten Olsen, of Denmark, will replace Louis van Gaal as coach of Ajax, a newspaper reported yesterday. The club is delaying the announcement until its players return from a training session in Spain, the national daily, *Algemeen Dagblad*, said.

## RUGBY UNION

## Saracens put high price on local pride

By David Hands  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IF YOU want to watch the best clubs in Europe competing in the final of the Heineken Cup on Saturday, you will pay £15 for the finest seat in the relative luxury of Cardiff Arms Park. If, on the other hand, you want to see the best in London, then it will cost £18 to watch Saracens play Wasps in the Pilkington Cup at Enfield FC on Sunday.

The decision taken by Saracens to increase their normal league-match price of £15 for this encounter undoubtedly makes them the highest-priced club in the country and has drawn criticism from some Wasps members. Coincidentally, Wasps themselves have decided that their pricing structure for games at Loftus Road needs adjustment and will introduce a middle-range band for their next league match, against Gloucester on March 8.

The sport's long-suffering supporters have found themselves targeted this season by clubs desperate to establish their value in the professional world. All first division clubs have been forced to raise season ticket and entry costs to sustain a professional administration and a wage bill for players, which they have never had before. Even those clubs who have attracted owner-investors — such as Saracens and Wasps — cannot be sure how long such investment will continue.

Nowhere, in general terms, is more expensive than London, and Saracens, who have assembled leading players from Australia, South Africa, England, Ireland and Wales, reflect this.

Scotland A have made two changes from the team that beat Emerging Wales 56-11 last Friday for their game against England A on January 31. Duncan Hodge comes in at inside centre for Paul Rouse and Murray Wallace displaces Simon Holmes on the open-side flank.

SCOTLAND A: D. Law (Worcestershire), J. Craig (West of Scotland), A. Tait (Newcastle), D. Hodge (Worcestershire), C. Glasgow (Fife), P. S. Watt (Newcastle), A. Nicol (Glasgow), G. Graham (Newcastle), S. Bullock (West of Scotland), P. Wright (Newcastle), E. Paterson (Raid), S. Campbell (Newcastle), S. Brown (Worcestershire), C. Hogg (Newcastle), M. Wallace (Glasgow).

## IN BRIEF

## French cite evidence of foul play by Ireland

THE French Rugby Federation has asked the Irish Rugby Football Union to look into possible foul play by three Ireland players in the five nations' championship match in Dublin on Saturday.

The Irish have already asked the French to take action over Franck Tournaire, the prop forward, for kicking Allen Clarke, the Ireland replacement hooker. Tournaire is expected to be suspended today.

However, the French claim that video evidence shows that Keith Wood, the hooker, Paddy Johns, the second-row forward, and Niall Hogan, the scrum half, all went unpunished for foul play. The French Federation said it expected the IRFU to take whatever action it deemed necessary.

Leon Lloyd, dropped by Leicester for the Heineken Cup final against Brive on Saturday, will make his first appearance for England in the under-21 international against Scotland at the Stoop Memorial Ground, Twickenham, on January 31. The team is led by Chris Murphy, the West Harlepool lock, who is one of five A internationals in the XV.

ENGLAND UNDER-21: R. Highmore (Sheff), L. Lloyd (Leicester), J. Evans (Leam), K. Smith (Saracens), M. Perry (Leam), P. Sampson (Wasps), C. Hanson (Bath), M. Worsley (Cornwall), A. Long (Bath), P. Vekery (Gloucester), J. Worsley (Wasps), B. Kay (Worcestershire), C. Murphy (Wasps), K. Harris (Cornwall), E. Pearce (Gloucester), R. Williams (Bedford).

## Burton series

Cycling: Beryl Burton, Britain's greatest female racing cyclist, who won seven world and 30 national titles before her death last year, is to have a series named in her memory by the Road Time Trials Council (RTTC).

Female competitors will qualify in national time-trial championships at 10, 25 and 50 miles together with the RTTC's circuit events, the winner being decided on the rider with the best aggregate performance.

## Broncos at Stoop

Rugby league: London Broncos are to share the Stoop Memorial Ground, at Twickenham, with Harlequins rugby union club, it was announced yesterday.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

I gave a hand recently on which the British player, Graham Hazel won the Best Defence prize at the European Schools Championships. In a slam, the declarer led from three small in a side-suit in dummy to his king. Hazel, holding the ace over declarer, ducked. Declarer, whose initial holding was KQ10, subsequently misguessed the suit. Now have a look at this hand.

| Dealer South                    | Love all                        | Rubber bridge                   |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ♠AK<br>♥J10943<br>♦52<br>♣A1055 | ♠AK<br>♥J10943<br>♦52<br>♣A1055 | ♠10654<br>♥52<br>♦Q1043<br>♣Q73 |

| S   | W    | N   | E    |
|-----|------|-----|------|
| 2NT | Pass | 3C  | Pass |
| 3S  | Pass | 4NT | Pass |

Contract: 4NT by South. Lead: seven of hearts

South didn't quite have his opening bid (2NT is normally 20-22), and North might have explored the possibilities of playing in hearts or clubs. However the contract was sound, depending only on a successful guess in diamonds for the twelfth trick. The declarer was Lionel Wright, New Zealand international and TGR manager. How should he play?

After winning the heart he crossed to dummy with a spade. He then led a diamond and put on the king. That had two things going for it: a) East might have the ace; b) West, a strong TGR regular, was a

sufficiently good player to duck if he had the ace, hoping the position was the one for which Hazel got the prize. That's what happened — West ducked and the slam made.

The early leaders at the Macallan international pairs at the White House Hotel in London were Nick Nickell and Richard Freeman, the Bermuda Bowl champions.

LEADING POSITIONS: 1. Nickell and Freeman (US) 57 VP's; 2. Jean and Short (Fr); 3. 47 VP's; 4. Newell and Maitland (Fr) 38 VP's.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

VAIK  
a. A trick  
b. An Ottoman magistrate  
c. To fall vacant

YEO  
a. A hearty  
b. To woo  
c. An underground stream

WHILLYWHA  
a. An American owl  
b. An uproar  
c. A flatterer

ZENDIK  
a. Arabic logarithm tables  
b. An atheist  
c. A small castle

Answers on page 42

## KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

## Piket leads

The Dutch grandmaster Jeroen Piket has maintained his lead in the tournament at Wijk aan Zee in Holland. In round three he drew quickly with the Spanish grandmaster Miguel Illescas thus giving Piket 2.5/3. In the following game Piket wins against the normally solid former Yugoslav grandmaster Nikolic. After a quiet opening, which might have led to a conventional draw, Piket suddenly blew the position wide apart with a sequence of sacrifices to come to grips with the white king.

White: Predrag Nikolic  
Black: Jeroen Piket Wijk aan Zee, January 1997

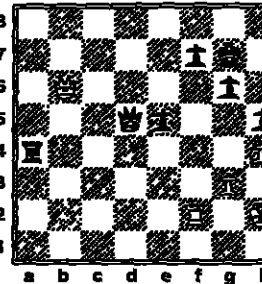
## Grunfeld Defence

|    |      |      |
|----|------|------|
| 1  | d4   | Nf6  |
| 2  | Nf3  | g6   |
| 3  | g3   | Bg7  |
| 4  | Bg2  | 0-0  |
| 5  | c4   | d5   |
| 6  | 0-0  | chc4 |
| 7  | Nc3  | Ne6  |
| 8  | Nac4 | Ba6  |
| 9  | b3   | a5   |
| 10 | Bb2  | Bd5  |
| 11 | Rc1  | a4   |
| 12 | bxa4 | Ba2  |
| 13 | Nf5  | Bg2  |
| 14 | Kg2  | Qa8  |
| 15 | Nc6  | bxc5 |
| 16 | a5   | c5+  |
| 17 | Kg1  | Rd8  |
| 18 | e3   | cxo4 |
| 19 | exd4 | Nd4  |
| 20 | Qf3  | Bc4  |
| 21 | Bc4  | Rc4  |
| 22 | d4   | Rf8  |
| 23 | Qe2  | Qa6  |

|    |      |      |
|----|------|------|
| 24 | Rc2  | Re6  |
| 25 | Ne3  | Qa5  |
| 26 | Rc1  | h5   |
| 27 | Rb8+ | Ng7  |
| 28 | Kg2  | o6   |
| 29 | Rc2  | Nag3 |
| 30 | bxg3 | Rde4 |
| 31 | Rxc5 | Rxe3 |
| 32 | Rxe6 | Qd5+ |
| 33 | Kh2  | Qxe6 |
| 34 | Qb5  | Qg4  |
| 35 | Rg2  | Qf1  |
| 36 | a4   | Re1  |
| 37 | Rf2  | Qe4  |
| 38 | Rg2  | Re1  |
| 39 | Qb6  | Rxa4 |
| 40 | Rf2  | Qd5  |

White resigns

## Diagram of final position



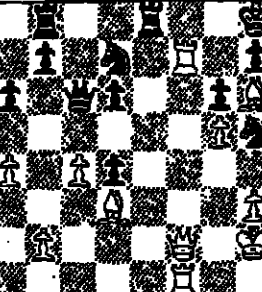
Nigel Short, who last month won the equally powerful tournament in the town of Groningen, is still struggling to find his form at Wijk aan Zee. In round three he also drew against the French grandmaster Joel Lautier. Short currently stands on 50%, a full point behind the leader.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Lobron — Hodgson, Groningen 1993. Julian Hodgson is one of Britain's finest and most imaginative attacking players. Here, however, he is on the receiving end. How did White conclude his attack in stylish fashion?



Solution on page 42

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AND TIRAMISU?  
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# What you get is more than what you see

The show-and-tell approach of much television can sometimes lead us astray. When the great pianist András Schiff announced at the beginning of last night's *Omnibus* (BBC1) that Schubert's "sonata" music "makes me cry," I automatically expected to see big baby tears rolling down his cheeks. Duty, the camera closed up on his face, his fingers tickled those ivorys, and yet — not a tear in sight. Literal-minded people are usually pretty Schiff at this point: seemed almost an affront to our natural rights. Force yourself, András, please. You come from a different tradition, admittedly, but we really viewers are different. How can we absorb what we hear if we don't also see it at the same time?

This *Omnibus* — entitled *The Wanderer*, and made by Mischa Scorer — was a refreshingly old-fashioned, arts programme, the

sort of non-revisionist celebration of artistic greatness craved by viewers, which can be produced only according to chronological crops up. At all other times, a Schubert film would only be made if there were skeletons to excavate, or if Doggy Dog Dirty Doo-Doo (a talented man in a woolly hat) had done a No 1 rap mix with the Fantasy in F minor (D940). This being Schubert's bicentennial month, however, Schiff's straightforwardly eloquent and passionate enthusiasm for Schubert's piano music required no spin other than tonic streams tripping lightly over rocks, to illustrate those persistently aquatic little-widdies.

Yes, those cool streams did widdle-diddle. Mists hung low over majestic trees. The show-and-tell method is never quite eradicated. But Austrian calendar-pictures be-blowed: it is far more fascinating

to see Schiff's hands demonstrating the difficulty of a song-without-words — his right hand providing both the melody and the accompaniment, his left, the orchestra. Schiff played *Die Doppelgänger* — an achingly sad song of lost love — and announced it had more drama in its two minutes than in the complete output of Richard Wagner, an impressively provocative thing to say. He also said that, in Roman Catholic terms, Bach is the Father, Mozart is the Son, and Schubert is the Holy Ghost, which sorts matters nicely. We never did see him cry. You can't have everything.

Besides, this *Omnibus* followed directly from *Composers*, as Mischa (BBC1), where salt water (as usual) came in more than sufficient quantities, thank you very much. This series progresses weirdly: last week's episode gave us a small, heart-

## REVIEW



Lynne Truss

stopping scare, as the gang broke up in acrimony; this week, however, they were all back together, best chums in the world, with a comic haircutting competition subplot, and a feel-good factor so thick and juicy you wanted to put it on a plate and call it dinner.

As for the sudden death of Irene (June Whitfield), cruelly shattering Nev's dreams of happiness: as an emotional manipulation, it was

hardly subtle. In fact in the *Oldie Book of Tricks*, such simple dramatic irony is firmly listed as No 1. At my mummy's knee, I learnt the ironic process from westerns, in which "I love you" and "We're going to be so happy!" was always followed closely by bang-bang, and the whoop of marauding Apaches. "I will return in two days from Laramie! Wait for me, my darlin'!" said the hero to his wasp-waisted fiancée; and I would list to my mama: "Is she going to die now?" And mama would whisper back, "You bet."

However, the death of June Whitfield — sorry, or not — provided Edward Woodward with a great acting moment ("No! No, love. No! No, love!") which clinched our suspicion that Nev is the performance of his career. Their scenes together, with Irene telling Nev "You're beautiful" were, well, beautiful, and it was reassuring to hear from Nev that

"full trouser activity" had not been neglected either. Only one thing puzzled me. The van in which the boys drove to Fleetwood was marked "Truss's Fresh Fish". The camera even lingered on the name, to ensure full attention. Truss? How bloody odd.

More scary stuff from the world of business in *Trouble at the Top* (BBC2), which this week concerned Jonathan Heynes, would-be saviour of the Reliant Robin. Before he bought the company, it had gone bust three times in five years (imagine the little car on its back, its wheels spinning pathetically in the air, yet strangely he didn't seem stupid. Possibly he had something to prove to his dead father — an important Jaguar man, who developed the E-type — but psychoanalysis is not the role of *Trouble at the Top*. On the other hand, I would love to know what a psycho-

analyst made of his startling management technique, which was to say "Look, I'm smiling; I can't smile any harder than this," as if patience were only a matter of will.

By sheer force of smiling insincerely, however, Heynes turned the company around in less than a year. Last summer, funny little three-wheeled cars finally started rolling off the production line, all with loving homes to go to. I didn't cry, but I think Heynes and his hard-working wife Samantha probably did. They'd had to hold their breath, and work strenuously to stay in the black, for months.

My only quibble was with Heynes's directive to his sales staff, encouraging a positive attitude. Evidently, the *Unipart* empire had been built on this simple philosophy: "The answer is yes, now what's the question?" Hmm. Sounds dangerous to me. What if the customer thinks really quickly and asks for a million pounds?

## BBC1

- 6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (58889)
- 7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (1) (60588)
- 9.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (1) (457696)
- 9.20 ALL OVER THE SHOP (854843)
- 9.45 KILROY (1736491)
- 10.30 CANT COOK, WON'T COOK (12578)
- 11.00 NEWS (1) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (6339743)
- 11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (2138520)
- 11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE Evelyn Gleason (816410)
- 12.00 NEWS (1) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (7827762)
- 12.05pm THE ALPHABET GAME (6885949)
- 12.30 GOING FOR A SONG (4531101)
- 12.55 THE WEATHER SHOW (27013) (68)
- 1.00 NEWS (1) and weather (63375)
- 1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (4486782)
- 1.40 NEIGHBOURS Libby's choice of friends worries Susan and Carl (17458655)
- 2.05 QUINCY (8544052)
- 2.30 PUT IT TO THE TEST (588472)
- 3.15 MORE SECRET GARDENS (6359052)
- 3.30 PLAYDAYS (595120) 3.50 Casper Classics (218438) 3.55 Wham! Bam! Strawberry Jam! (894910) 4.10 Free Willy (138236) 4.35 The Really Wild Show (759533) 5.00 Newswatch (1) (517277) 5.10 Grange Hill (1) (580114)
- 5.35 NEIGHBOURS (1) (170014)
- 6.00 NEWS (1) and weather (781)
- 6.30 NEWSROOM SOUTH EAST (17258)
- 7.00 WATCHDOG Includes a look at the mysterious animal deaths sweeping the country (1) (5438)
- 7.30 EASTENDERS Kathy can't make up her mind whether she and Phil have a future together (1) (217)
- 8.00 INCREDIBLE JOURNEYS insight into the amazing 3,000-mile migration made by the monarch butterfly from its breeding grounds in Canada to the warm winter refuge of a forest in Mexico (1) (1858)
- 8.30 NEXT OF KIN Maggie becomes a Cub mistress, while Andrew has a reunion lunch with his former secretary (1) (3994)
- 9.00 NEWS (1) and weather (2946)
- 9.30 THE X FILES: Hell Money Mulder and Scully travel to San Francisco's Chinatown to investigate the bizarre and horrific death of a man burnt alive in a crematorium oven (1) (337507)
- 10.15 THE FRANK SKINNER SHOW (1) (832675)
- 10.45 QUESTION TIME The guests are MPs Gillian Shephard and Frank Dobson, Charles Moore, editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, and Carmen Calli, founder of Virago Press (1) (25878)
- 11.45 RAMADAN JOURNEYS (774859)
- 12.05am FILM: *Gothic* (1986) starring Gabriel Byrne. Ken Russell's bizarre horror fantasy chronicling the surreal events which took place at Byron's Soles villa in 1816 and inspired Mary Shelley to write *Frankenstein* (6537325)
- 1.30 WEATHER (213898)

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## BBC2

- 6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: The Other Virtuosos — Victorian Brass Bands (4967401) 6.25 Holidays by the Sea (496526) 6.50 A New Museum at South Kensington (404255) 7.15 Sea View Breakfast News (653534) 7.30 Hello! It's the Hair Bear Bunch (2372781) 7.55 Joe's Peter (2176236) 8.20 Wishing (3715878) 8.35 The Record (3216491) 9.00 Science Collection (8524217) 9.25 Into Work (9185743) 9.40 Megamaths (2505897) 10.00 Playdays (5318) 10.30 Playdays (8610148) 10.45 The Experimenter (5382438) 11.05 Space Ark (8050236) 11.15: Health 3 (578057) 11.35 Landmarks (2876138) 11.55 Techno (8011588) 12.15pm Quince Minutes Plus (2528330) 12.30 Working Lunch (21014) 1.30 Lifestyles (5339453) 1.25 Isle of Dogs (4480343) 2.00 Wishing (86131878) 2.10 Every One's Got One (9025528) 3.00 News 3.05 Westminster (7986897) 3.55 News 4.00 Today's the Day (946) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (830) 5.00 Esther (2217) 5.20 The Village (173985) 5.35 Turning Points (824859)
- 6.00 STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE (1) (955438)
- 6.45 TENNIS: Australian Open Women's semi-final highlights (163781)
- 7.30 FIRST SIGHT The Regent's Park Estate in north London was dubbed the most racially explosive area in Britain, after Richard Everett, a white boy, was killed by death by Bengali youths. Now new developments are emerging to bring the Bengali and white communities together (633) WALES: 7.30 Disaster EAST: Matter of Fact MIDLANDS: Midlands Report NORTH/NORTH EAST/NORTH WEST: Close Up SOUTH: Southern Eye
- 8.00 DISASTER: The Golesse incident in 1967 panic spread through the Brazilian town of Golesse when a group of people in possession of some seemingly harmless blue crystals became critically ill (1) (2101) WALES: Wonder Women.



Quentin Wilson advises (8.30pm)

- 8.30 TOP GEAR Quentin Wilson looks at the merits of buying an accident-damaged car and repairing it to become a runner (1) (236)
- 9.00 THIRD ROCK FROM THE SUN Dick attempts to make contact with his neighbours (1) (317385)
- 9.25 ICE SKATING (3030885) 10.30 Newswatch (1) (441894) 11.15 Late Review (778052) 11.55 Sliding Forecast (200033) 12.00 Midnight Hour (27724)
- 12.30am THE LEARNING ZONE O.U.: The First of Life (1057) 1.00 A Day in the Life (24298) 2.00 Children and Development (78279) 4.00 Greek Language and People/French Experience by (34279) 5.00 The Small Business Programme (42618) 5.30 20 Steps to Better Management (28453)

## CHOICE

- Survival: The Rabbit in the Moon (17) 7.30pm  
The Aztecs believed that you could see the outline of the volcano rabbit — the "most primitive rabbit alive" — on the surface of the Moon. Be that as it may (and a close-up of the moon does little to confirm Aztec perception) this is yet another story of a wee cowerin' beastie apparently destined for extinction. The endearing, hamster-like rabbit lives in thick "bunch grass" on the slopes of four extinct volcanoes around Mexico City. Its population is approaching the 25 million mark, and that means more and more grass is being torched to make way for grazing. The rabbits number fewer than 600 now and, as a final irony, the city's cat population is also overrunning. Fierce and feral, the cats are making short work of those rabbits still left. Fear breaks your heart.

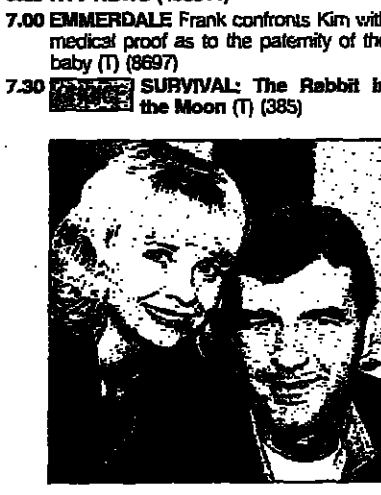
- Incredible Journeys: A Butterfly's Relay (BBC1, 8.00pm)  
Now this is more cheerful. Just how can a creature weighing about the same as a postage stamp do what the splendid black and gold monarch butterfly does? What instinct propels it over 3,000 miles, homing in on a plant, the milkweed, which grows only in certain parts of Canada and America, because its safe to lay eggs there and drink the "milk" — sustaining for the butterfly and its offspring but poisonous to most other creatures and, when in the monarch's body, anathema to predators? This remarkable film doesn't really explain but, using an engaging blunder-by of digital imagery, supported on American and Canadian backdrops, charts the monarch and her daughter's journey from their dazzling winter "camp" in a Mexican forest through relays of births and deaths to north of Toronto and back again.

- Dispatches Channel 4, 9.00pm  
You would think, argues this startling, horrifying, on selection report, that training of promising young footballers by their clubs is a Good Thing. But in America, a one-time Manchester City coach is serving time for sexual offences against young players which, it is now known, go back 20 years. Ian Ackley and others recall in some detail his "coaching" methods when they were as young as 11. The programme dishes the dirt on other coaches — well, one or two — and doorsteps (unsuccessfully) apparently unearthing FA officials. One club — Charlton Athletic — has already established its own code of practice and the first team coach, Les Reed (it's sickening to hear such things) is sharply critical of the FA. They need to come out of the towers at Lancaster Gate and really investigate what's going on.

- Taggart: Apocalypse (ITV, 9.00pm)  
Part two of what is turning out to be one of the most bizarre stories in the series, with or without its eponymous hero. Like the film *Seven* (Deadly Sins), this three-part drama — with Jarlath and company apparently mesmerised to the point of total inaction — a series of murders based on the biblical plagues of Egypt: frogs, boils, locusts and, look out tonight for fire. At the heart of the story the smug, starchy-eyed Children of the New Millennium continue to worship at the feet of their sinister "Father," David Burns (Nicholas Clay). Poor old Detective Constable Fraser (Colin McCredie) has now reluctantly gone undercover to investigate the sect at first hand... Can he overcome his distaste for all that wonderfully observed holy ranting (and bad food) finally to nail the chief suspect? Elizabeth Cowley

## HTV

- 6.00am GMTV (1499965)
- 9.25 WIN, LOSE OR DRAW (8514830)
- 9.55 REGIONAL NEWS (9324255)
- 10.00 THE TIME, THE PLACE (42694)
- 10.30 THIS MORNING (8398438)
- 12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (7823946)
- 12.30 NEWS (1) and weather (4526867)
- 12.55 SHORTLAND STREET (4501568) 1.25 Home and Away (1) (8088588) 1.50 Afternoon Live. The guests include Sashia Wolfram (74533491) 2.20 Vanessa (1) (23349101) 2.50 Afternoon Live (8061949)
- 3.20 NEWS (6031439)
- 3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (6023410)
- 3.30 THE RIDDLES (5944061) 3.40 Woodcra (1147762) 3.50 The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (3582304) 4.15 Mike and Angelo (1373675) 4.40 Sticky (3022584)
- 5.10 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (1) (1) (8758930)
- 5.40 NEWS (1) and weather (346120)
- 6.00 HOME AND AWAY (197217)
- 6.25 HTV NEWS (455014)
- 7.00 EMERDRADE Frank confronts Kim with medical proof as to the paternity of the baby (1) (8697)
- 7.30 SURVIVAL: The Rabbit in the Moon (1) (385)



Lacey and O'Callaghan (8.00pm)

- 8.00 THE BILL Boyden's (Tony O'Callaghan) love life becomes the centre of an investigation by his CID colleagues. With Rebecca Lacey (1) (9255)
- 8.30 MICHAEL BARRYMORE'S STRIKE IT RICH (1) (8762)
- 9.00 TAGGART More strange murders lead the police to suspect sinister cult leader David Burns (1) (4658)
- 10.00 NEWS (1) and weather (22255)
- 10.30 REGIONAL NEWS (816014)
- 10.40 FILM: *Allen Nation* (1988) starring Jason Connery, Terence Stamp and Wendy Patinkin. Sci-fi thriller set when alien, labelled newcomers by human beings, have settled on Earth but have yet to integrate into society. When the partner of an LA policeman is murdered by one of them, he reluctantly agrees to work with a newcomer in a bid to track down the culprits. Their uncovering of evidence of a plot threatening to destroy both their species. Directed by Graham Baker. (24017101)
- 12.20am IN BED WITH MEDLINER (8015786)
- 12.50 FUNNY BUSINESS (7538960)
- 1.20 CYBER CAFE (2219459) 1.55 Late and Loud (1) (1685415) 2.55 The Good Sex Guide (1) (4885616) 3.50 The Big Match — Replayed (8326279) 4.30 The Time, The Place (1) (85540) 5.30 The New Mr and Mrs Show (1) (39144) 5.50 News (22279)

## CENTRAL

- As HTV West except:  
12.55pm-1.25 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (4501568)
- 5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (8759830)
- 6.25 CENTRAL NEWS (105236)
- 6.55-7.00 LIFELINE (153566)
- 12.20am FUNNY BUSINESS (8015786)
- 12.50 ED'S NIGHT PARTY (7538960)
- 1.20 CLUB NATION (4691569)
- 2.20 SHIFT (2482231)
- 3.15 PLANET ROCK PROFILES featuring the Irish rock band the Cranberries (90655)
- 3.45 JONES AND JURY. Two cousins argue over money and child care (94610182)
- 4.05 CENTRAL JOBBING '97 (5653231)
- 5.20 ASIAN EYE (5131144)

## WESTCOUNTRY

- As HTV West except:  
12.20pm-12.30 ILLUMINATIONS (7623946)
- 12.55-1.25 ENMERDRADE (4501568)
- 5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (8759830)
- 6.00-7.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (33859)

## MERIDIAN

- As HTV West except:  
5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (8759830)
- 6.00 MERIDIAN TONIGHT (149)
- 6.30-7.00 GETAWAYS (101)
- 5.00am FREESCREEN (39144)

## ANGLIA

- As HTV West except:  
12.19pm ANGLIA AIR WATCH (7635781)
- 12.55-1.25 CROSSWORDS (4501568)
- 5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (8759830)
- 6.25 ANGLIA NEWS (105236)
- 6.55-7.00 WHAT'S ON (153566)
- 10.29 ANGLIA AIR WATCH (248236)

## S4C

- Starts: 6.00am SESAME STREET (81168)
- 7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (86526)
- 9.00 BEWITCHED (26584)
- 9.30 YSGOLION (49014)
- 12.00 HOUSE TO HOUSE (29168)
- 12.30pm HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER (48410)
- 1.00 SLOT MEATHRIN (56385)
- 1.30 Film: *BONJOUR TRISTESSE* (1957). The teenage daughter of a wealthy widow tries to sabotage his new romance. Starring David Niven, Jean Seberg and Deborah Kerr. Directed by Otto Preminger (43149679)
- 3.15 RICKI LAKE (3659149)
- 4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (594)
- 4.30 WILD RELATIONS (526)
- 5.00 PUMP (8385)
- 5.30 COUNTDOWN (878)
- 6.00 NEWYDDION (711946)
- 6.05 HENO (108323)
- 6.35 GAI AM AUR (151548)
- 7.00 POBOL Y CWM (201304)
- 7.25 PWY'DI PWY? (7897)
- 8.30 NEWYDDION (6304)
- 9.00 ASS (5526)
- 10.00 MY MISUS (20897)
- 10.30 Film: *BODY SNATCHERS* (24035507)
- 12.05am DISPATCHES (2649705)
- 1.05-2.05 NAKED CLASSICS (4693927)
- 3.40 YSGOLION (664960)

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00am SESAME STREET (81168) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (86526) 9.00 Switched (26584) 9.30 Schools (849014) 12.00 House To House (29168) 12.30pm Here's One I Made Earlier (48410) 1.00 Cylbil (8097743) 1.20 Haunted House (1923) d.w. A Buster Keaton short (4225409)
- 1.50 FILM: *The Woman In Question* (1950, b/w) A British whodunnit starring Jean Kent, Dirk Bogarde, Susan Shaw and John McCallum. Directed by Anthony Asquith (1) (8392491)
- 3.30 COLLECTORS' LOT (1) (1) (507) 4.00 Fifteen-To-One (1) (594) 4.30 Countdown (526) 5.00 Ricki Lake (1) (808294) 5.45 Scorpions (63236)
- 6.00 NEW GAMESMASTER (1) (491)
- 6.30 HOLLYOAKS (1) (743)
- 7.00 CHANNEL 4 NEWS (1) (958675)
- 7.50 BOOK CHOICE: BOOKS OF THE CENTURY Professor John Cornwell examines some of the non-fiction titles appearing on the Books of the Century list (1) (900323)
- 8.00 AN INSPECTOR CALLS On the road with two Automobile Association inspectors, employed to keep tabs on AA-listed hotels, townhouses and guesthouses (1) (1) (7897)



Theme cooks Monica, Sue (8.30pm)

- 8.30 TV DINNERS Hugh Fearnley-Whittinghall joins Monica Curran and Sue Smallwood to prepare a 1970s soul food feast which takes the cut movie *Car Wash* as its theme. He also assists Michael Massadella to cook an Italian meal for 30 with the help of a pizza oven in a back garden (1) (8304)
- 9.00 DISPATCHES An exposé of paedophile coaches preying on Britain's young soccer talent (1) (52526)
- 10.00 LENNY GO Lenny Henry wows a hometown Birmingham audience with his stand-up routine (1) (2806438)
- 11.05 FILM: *The Baby of Maacon* (1994) starring Ralph Fiennes, Philip Seaford and Julia Ormond. Peter Greenaway's powerful and arguably offensive story of a beautiful child, saintly exploited by his sister (1) (2780236)
- 12.55am NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH Should the mother of a murdered teenager be able to prevent her son's paedophile killer from returning to live in the area after his release from prison? (2/8) (1) (1) (4861182)
- 2.25 WASTED WINDFALL A look at 25 years of North Sea oil (2/1) (1) (2489144)
- 3.20 FILM: *The Black Cat* (1935) Edgar Allan Poe's classic starring Clive Brook, directed by Rob Green (340541)
- 3.40 TIME CAPSULE A series of educational programmes looking at Britain at critical times in European history (664960)
- 5.30 BACKDATE (1) (13521)

## For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

### SKY 1

- 6.00am Morning Glory (222236) 5.00 Designing Women (5678) 5.30 Designing Women (5678) 6.00 Another World (5787) 6.30 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 7.00 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 7.30 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 8.00 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 8.30 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 9.00 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 9.30 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 10.00 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 10.30 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 11.00 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 11.30 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 12.00 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 12.30 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 1.00 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 1.30 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 2.00 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 2.30 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 3.00 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 3.30 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 4.00 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 4.30 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 5.00 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 5.30 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 6.00 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 6.30 The Day After Tomorrow (5787) 7.00 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**GOLF 38**  
Olazabal ready to return with new spring in his step

# SPORT

THURSDAY JANUARY 23 1997

**TENNIS 42**

Sampras roars into last four despite Costa's brave defiance



## Captain under intense pressure to end poor run in first Test against New Zealand

### Atherton must regain his personal touch

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN AUCKLAND

MICHAEL ATHERTON is wryly amused by the speculation that he may stand down as captain of England after the Ashes series this summer. "I'd just like to think I might get that far," he retorts. Such uncertainty, fostered amid the tribulations of Zimbabwe, explains why the Test match about to start here is among the most significant of his life.

It has come to this for two reasons. The team under-achieved in Zimbabwe and Atherton scarcely made a run. Many have ventured a view as to whether one problem influenced the other, and in which order, but on all recent evidence it can safely be said that England will not resume playing unless their captain regains his elusive form with the bat. It follows, therefore, that, if he does not do so soon, he will lose the job.

There are other telling factors to consider for this opening Test of three against New Zealand, notably the fitness of Dominic Cork. England's most incisive bowler had been written off even by his own team-mates after breaking down with back trouble in Hamilton on Sunday but, yesterday, he had recovered sufficiently to sustain hope of a reprieve.



Cork: late decision

Wayne Morton, the physiotherapist, explained: "The damage is to a facet joint at the base of the spine and we don't think there is any muscle tear. He has improved a good deal and I am far more hopeful than I was." A decision, he said, would be left late.

Cork was scheduled to bowl in the final practice session early today and, if he came through this initial test, his overnight reaction would be gauged. "If he is not 100 per cent, he won't play," David Lloyd, the coach, said.

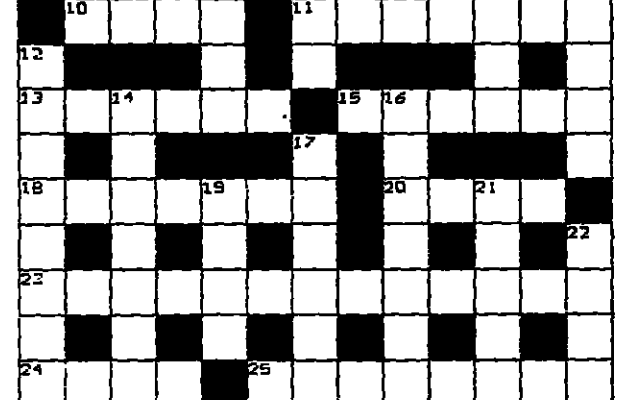
#### TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND (probable) L K Gernon (captain), B A Young, B A Pocock, A C Parore, S P Fleming, N J Astle, C L Cairns, J C Vaughan, D N Patel, S B Doull, D K Morrison.

ENGLAND (probable) M A Atherton (captain), N V Knight, A J Stewart, N Hussain, G P Thorpe, J P Crawley, J White, R D V Croft, D Gough, C E W Silverwood, A D Mullally, P C R Tufnell, D G Cork.

Umpires: S Durrant (NZ) and S Bucknor (WI). Match referee: P Burge (Aus).

TELEVISION: Sky Sports 1 9.30pm-4.30am. RADIO: Radio 4 (Long Wave), 9.30pm-11.30 12.30am-4.30



**ACROSS**  
1 Large church: Roman hall (8)  
5 (Musical) work (4)  
9 Responsibility on prosecution (6,2,5)  
10 New starter (4)  
11 Greeting tool (7)  
13 Still surviving (6)  
15 Taker of pictures (6)  
18 Potato spirit (7)  
20 Little argument (4)  
23 Immediately to hand (un- no fixed) (5,4,4)  
24 Niece hole in sock (4)  
25 Appetite (5)

**DOWN**  
1 Newborn (4)  
2 Repentant (5)  
3 Recline: accept unprotestingly (5,4)  
4 Rather rough (sea) (6)  
6 Person receiving one's support, patronage (7)  
7 Flatter (4-9)  
8 Turn rapidly: new interpretation (by doctor) (4)  
12 Reduced in worth (8)  
14 Natural peals (7)  
16 Entertainer (7)  
17 Position taken (6)  
19 Extremely (4)  
21 The plant-life (of area) (5)  
22 Threads woven across warp (4)

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All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6884, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address \_\_\_\_\_

**SOLUTION TO NO 997**  
ACROSS: 6 Shallow 7 Comma 9 Admit 10 Turntail  
11 Half-hearted 14 Over a barrel 17 Zealous 19 Outdo  
21 Reins 22 Mandate  
DOWN: 1 Calm 2 Flovilla 3 Swatch 4 Scar 5 Immortal  
6 Swat 8 Allude 11 Hieratic 12 Airborne 13 Boozer  
15 Assume 16 Core 18 Out 20 Trap



Atherton tries to find his form as Stewart, the wicketkeeper, looks on in the nets at Eden Park yesterday

### Same again would suit England on return to Eden Park

By SIMON WILDE

ENGLAND'S form in New Zealand during the past fortnight has raised hopes that they may be about to do something rash and win a Test series away from home for the first time in five years. If they are looking for further encouraging signs, they might like to reflect that their last series success was achieved at Eden Park, Auckland, where the first Test match starts later today.

The Auckland game of 1992, which followed an innings victory in Christchurch, was played in unusual conditions, on a pitch that began damp and remained difficult throughout because of uneven bounce. The match was dominated by the seam bowlers, with England's attack — led by DeFreitas, Lewis and Pringle, who took 16 wickets between them — comfortably outperforming New Zealand's, although the best figures were recorded by Cairns, who claimed six for 52 in the first innings.

Traditionally, Auckland is an excellent place for scoring runs, if slowly, but feeble batting by New Zealand has enabled Pakistan and South Africa to come away with victories in recent years. The last Test match played there, ten months ago, resulted in a high-scoring draw with Zimbabwe, Cairns again featuring prominently, this time with the bat. He smashed 120 from only 96 balls, including ten sixes, on the last day.

England, likely to include only two survivors from that previous appearance, in Stewart and Tufnell, have never lost in 13 Tests at Eden Park, their two defeats in 35 matches in New Zealand coming at Wellington in 1977-78 and Christchurch in 1983-84.

have been going into Test matches looking to draw unless they sniff a chance of victory. We go into our games expecting to win."

With Lloyd still insisting at every opportunity that England were moral winners of the series in Zimbabwe, it seems that neither side is admitting to any shortage of confidence. Atherton, certainly, is not of a mind to do so, especially on matters personal. He knows that every eye will be trained on him as never before and, quietly, in his obstinate way, he may even be relishing it.

If he decides this is the best option, then a second spinner will almost certainly be sacrificed, leading to a delicate choice between Robert Croft and Philip Tufnell. Croft is dependable: everyone knows what he can do and it is admirable. But Tufnell just might win England the match, as he has done previously in this country. To pick him would be to broadcast confident intent.

Eden Park is shaped for rugby rather than cricket and two of the boundaries are among the shortest on any Test ground. Neither captain

### Buckley fails Albion's ambition



Buckley: dismissed

ALAN BUCKLEY, the West Bromwich Albion manager, was dismissed yesterday, paying the price for not living up to the considerable expectations of Tony Hale, his chairman, and the Nationwide League first division club's supporters (Russell Kempson writes). On Saturday, during the drab 1-1 draw with Oldham Athletic at The Hawthorns, the fans had called for Buckley's head; four days later they got their wish.

Hale is now seeking a high-profile successor to lift the club out of the shadows of Wolverhampton Wanderers, its Black Country neighbours, and justify its decision to float on the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange earlier this month.

By the end of trading in the first week, the shares had more than doubled in value to £220, valuing the club at about £16 million. However, as Millwall discovered on Tuesday, when they had to call in the administrators, success in the City is reliant on success on the pitch.

### Forest secure Pearce at least until May

STUART PEARCE confirmed yesterday that he will remain as manager of Nottingham Forest for the rest of the season and indicated that he is prepared to undertake the job in the longer term (Richard Hobson writes).

Pearce met Irving Korn, the chairman of the FA Carling Premiership football club, and presented a range of proposals, including the players he wants to buy and his own remuneration. The directors will meet tomorrow to discuss Pearce's blueprint, although they cannot sanction significant spending because of the uncertainty surrounding the club's future ownership.

"I have put some ideas forward that would see me staying on as manager, but I know there is so much going on at the moment and I do not even know if whoever takes over the club will want me," Pearce said. However, the signs are that shareholders will give the required 75 per cent backing to a takeover bid at an extraordinary general meeting on February 24. The new owners would be brave men not to proceed with Pearce, 34, at the helm.

Since becoming caretaker-manager after the resignation of Frank Clark on December 19, Pearce has led Forest out of the relegation zone with four wins in six matches. His own form has not been affected, and, if he plays against Italy in the World Cup qualifying match on February 12, he will become the first person to represent England while managing a club side.

### Pitch invasion brings suspended sentence

BRISTOL City were yesterday given a suspended sentence of the deduction of two league points for failing to control spectators when crowd trouble broke out in a derby match at Ashton Gate last month (John Goodbody writes).

Spectators allegedly attacked Bristol Rovers players at the end of the Nationwide League second division match, which finished 1-1, and pursued them down the tunnel to the dressing-rooms. The sentence, imposed by a three-man FA disciplinary commission, is suspended until December 31. City were also ordered to pay the costs of the inquiry but did not receive a fine.

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# THE TIMES

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INSIDE SECTION

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TODAY

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Should Labour heed the message from business?  
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Private medicine comes under the spotlight  
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## SPORT

Spaniard serves final notice as he overshadows Chang  
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## TELEVISION AND RADIO

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY JANUARY 24 1997

AK

## Investor beats society in court over uncompetitive rate

BY MARIANNE CURRIBY

A SMALL investor has won an unprecedented victory in court against a building society for paying him uncompetitive rates of interest on his savings.

The case at Norwich County Court could open the floodgates for millions of investors to take their bank or building society to court if they feel aggrieved about low rates. It will also force societies to reappraise marketing literature which

makes bold claims about prospective investment returns when savers open accounts.

Robert Anthony claimed the Norwich and Peterborough's marketing literature promised his account would pay "a very competitive rate of interest". However he said that over four years the society had failed to fulfil this claim by maintaining an interest rate near the bottom of recognised league tables.

Judge Horrocks decided in his favour and awarded him £285 — a

sum equal to the extra interest he would have earned had his money been in an account paying an average rate. Mr Anthony had claimed a society offering a top rate of interest would have paid out an extra £500.

There are nearly 20,000 other Norwich and Peterborough savers in Mr Anthony's position, and in theory all could sue at an estimated cost to the society of £5.5 million.

Four years ago building society investors won a similar victory

when the building societies ombudsman ruled the Nationwide should pay compensation to an investor who lost £30 interest when an account became obsolete. The Nationwide was held not to have given enough publicity on the difference in rates between its old account and a new one paying more.

The Anthony case involved a Tessa (tax-exempt special savings account) which Mr Anthony opened in January 1992. Such accounts must run for five years to qualify for tax-free interest. In this case the

initial rate of interest was higher than average at 12 per cent, but this fell and by January 1995 was 5.7 per cent, putting the society close to the bottom of the Tessa league table.

Mr Anthony said: "I queried the rate of interest on the account after comparing carefully the difference between the rates offered by competing building societies. The money involved is not large, but it is the principle that counts."

The Norwich and Peterborough said that although it believed it had

grounds for appeal it had decided not to. "There has been one similar complaint and in that case the building societies ombudsman decided in our favour," it said.

"However, whilst we consider that an appeal would be successful, this could involve our member in considerable costs and, in the interests of maintaining good customer relations, we do not wish to expose him to this risk as a result of a transaction involving such a small sum."

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDICES

|                |          |           |
|----------------|----------|-----------|
| FTSE 100       | 4271.5   | (+52.4)   |
| Yield          | 3.65%    |           |
| FTSE All share | 2887.11  | (+21.84)  |
| Nikkei         | 17959.46 | (+104.42) |
| Dow Jones      | 6885.44  | (+35.41)* |
| S&P Composite  | 791.95   | (+5.62)*  |

### US RATE

|               |        |          |
|---------------|--------|----------|
| Federal Funds | 5 1/4% | (5 1/4%) |
| Long Bond     | 6 5/8% | (6 5/8%) |
| Yield         | 6.55%  | (6.55%)  |

### LONDON MONEY

|                 |         |           |
|-----------------|---------|-----------|
| 3-mth Interbank | 6 1/4%  | (6 1/4%)  |
| Life long gilt  | 11 1/4% | (11 1/4%) |

### STERLING

|          |        |          |
|----------|--------|----------|
| New York | 1.6285 | (1.6362) |
| London   | 1.6279 | (1.6338) |
| DM       | 2.6681 | (2.7133) |
| FF       | 5.9252 | (5.1528) |
| SF       | 2.1388 | (2.3540) |
| Yen      | 194.59 | (196.80) |
| £ Index  | 95.8   | (97.2)   |

### \$\$\$ DOLLAR

|         |         |          |
|---------|---------|----------|
| London  | 1.6402* | (1.6405) |
| DM      | 5.5250* | (5.5387) |
| FF      | 1.6225* | (1.6250) |
| Yen     | 119.57* | (118.95) |
| £ Index | 101.3   | (100.8)  |

Tokyo close Yen 119.05

### NORTH SEA OIL

|                   |        |          |
|-------------------|--------|----------|
| Brut 15-day (Apr) | 622.25 | (622.00) |
|-------------------|--------|----------|

### GOLD

|              |          |            |
|--------------|----------|------------|
| London close | \$349.45 | (\$351.15) |
|--------------|----------|------------|

\* denotes midday trading price

## Shares soar in relief at pound's fall

BY JANET BUSH AND PHILIP BASSETT

SHARES powered ahead in relief over a fall at last in the pound based on growing optimism that interest rates will not have to rise.

Sterling began to fall just as the Chambers of Commerce declared that nearly every company in the country had begun to suffer from the high pound restricting competitiveness.

Shares of leading exporters such as ICI, Zetec, GKN and British Steel were among the top performers as the FTSE 100 index piled on another 52.4 points to close at 4,271.5.

The rally followed a dramatic plunge in sterling after European markets closed on Wednesday. The first real break in what has been the pound's inexorable upward march since last summer coincided with a fresh warning about the damage its strength is wreaking on industry.

The British Chambers of Commerce said that manufacturing growth is now "stuttering" and urged the Government not to raise interest rates. Ian Peters, BCC deputy director-general, said that resisting a further rise in interest rates was important if the manufacturing recovery was not to be "snuffed out". Further, rate rises would lead to an even greater appreciation of sterling, he argued.

In European trading on Wednesday, the pound hardly reacted to a fall in retail sales in December, which the City argued had ruled out a rate rise, probably this side of an election. But investors in New York, followed by speculators in Far Eastern markets, used the news to take profits on sterling, which has soared by more than 40 pence against the mark since August. The

pound dropped more than six pence from a high in Europe of DM2.7240 to a low in the Far East of DM2.6610 but steadied again in European trading yesterday to close at around DM2.6685. Its index against a basket of currencies closed at 95.8, down from Wednesday's 97.2.

The BCC's warning about sterling came as it announced the results of its latest quarterly business survey. This suggested that, while the service sector continues to prosper, manufacturing is now "rather subdued". The decline in export sales growth in the face of a stronger pound has been particularly marked.

Despite the pound's fluctuations yesterday, the BCC said that its "persistent rise" was "slowly taking its toll on manufacturers' export sales", with a net balance of a fifth of companies now saying their export orders are rising, compared with a quarter three months ago. More worrying still, the survey showed that manufacturers' domestic sales have also stalled.

"The BCC said that there had been a 'fringe' increase in the number of manufacturers identifying the exchange rate as the external factor most hurting their firm."

Service companies, by contrast, saw continuing growth in their home and export deliveries and orders. While service sector confidence was at its highest level since the first quarter of 1989, with a net 64 per cent of firms reporting improved confidence, manufacturing optimism dropped slightly. Job growth in the services is also at its highest since 1989, but employment growth in manufacturing has dropped back from a large rise seen three months ago.

Although the BCC urged the Chancellor to leave rates alone now, it forecast that rates will have to rise after the election, whichever party wins. Dr Peters said the incoming government would have to raise rates "if it is to achieve the inflation target which the current Government has set and which the Shadow Chancellor has said he will want to stick to."

Stock market, page 30



George Pope, right, and Ian Homersham, joint chairmen of John D Wood, yesterday

## SIB chief will not seek a new term

BY ROBERT MILLER

SIR Andrew Large, the City's most senior watchdog, said yesterday that he would not seek a second term as head of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB). He is scheduled to leave at the end of May.

Sir Andrew, 54, who has spent five years as SIB chairman, said that the bulk of the changes proposed in his 1993 review had been implemented. "So this is a logical time for a change of chairman."

He added, however, that the main unfinished piece of business was the unsatisfactory rate of progress on the pensions review. "This will be a key focal point for me in my remaining period of office."

With eight years in City regulation, he could look for a high-paid job with a global investment bank. However, he could stay at the SIB helm if Labour wins the general election. The party has pledged to reform the Financial Services Act and the role of the City watchdogs and it could be that he is asked to remain.

Front-line contenders include Phillip Thorpe, head of Imro, Colette Bowe, of the Personal Investment Authority, and Nick Durlacher, of the Securities and Futures Authority. Alternatively, Christopher Sharples, former SFA head, might be persuaded to rejoin.

## Cook launches £79m buyout bid

BY FRASER NELSON

ANDREW COOK, the chairman of William Cook, has launched an £79.5 million bid to buy the specialist engineering company back from the City and snatch it from the hostile bid tabled by rival Triplex Lloyd.

Steel Castings, a buyout vehicle formed by Mr Cook and Electra Fleming, is offering 425p in cash for each William Cook share, against the 387p at which Triplex Lloyd's cash-and-paper offer now values the shares. It is also offering a cash alternative of 383p per share.

Graham Lockyer, chief executive of Triplex Lloyd, said the developments illustrated how Mr Cook, whose grandfather founded the business 92 years ago, was determined to keep it under family control. He said: "If the company's not in Triplex Lloyd's hands, I suppose he [Andrew Cook] thinks he's saved it."

Under the Takeover Panel's rules, Triplex can now increase its final bid.

Mr Cook has agreed to pay £2.4 million of his personal fortune into the venture, which would take his stake in the firm from 4 to 14 per cent. Electra Fleming is providing £31 million for a 78 1/2 per cent, and the Bank of Scotland has agreed to lend the venture £40 million.

A further 18 of William Cook's managers are being invited to support the venture, in exchange for a 5.75 per cent stake. John Caldwell, the company's financial controller, is paying £500,000 for a 1.25 per cent share, while Roy Henson is paying £200,000 for a 0.5 per cent share.

William Cook's shares were suspended after the news of the buyout leaked out. They resumed trading on the announcement and closed 45p up at 420p — 5p below the buyout offer.

Pennington, page 29

## Traders look for spin-offs from PepsiCo

BY FRASER NELSON

A SHAKE-UP appeared to be in store last night for PepsiCo's British restaurants after reports surfaced that the US group is preparing to spin off the \$11 billion business (Eric Reguly writes).

Demerging the Pizza Hut, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Taco Bell restaurants would leave PepsiCo as a snack food and soft drinks group. The company would neither confirm nor deny the press reports.

The company is one of Britain's biggest employers. The 350 Pizza Hut restaurants, owned in partnership with Whitebread, have 11,200 staff and annual turnover of about £220 million. There are about 400 Kentucky Fried Chicken outlets, about two thirds of which are company owned, with some 6,500 staff.

## City bonuses stoke luxury home market

BY FRASER NELSON

HEFTY bonuses for City brokers are helping to fuel house prices in central London, according to John D Wood, the estate agent.

George Pope, its joint chairman, said demand from the newly enriched in the City was making a tangible impact on the market for luxury accommodation in London, and on the company, which yesterday returned its strongest interim results for nine years. "We are getting calls from people who have just received a nice fat cheque, and are willing to pay an extra 40 or 50 per cent for their house. The problem now is that agents are a bit short of stock," he said.

The average price of the houses sold by John D Wood, the majority for more than £500,000, rose by 20 per cent over the 12 months. It has one property to sell at £16 million.

Nicola Hortick, the fund manager who quit Morgan Grenfell last week, had arranged to move to a £3 million house in The Little Boltons in Chelsea but the move is dependent on receiving her bonus, which is in dispute.

Outside housing, Mr Pope said the agricultural division was also enjoying its strongest demand since the late 80s. "When a lot of money is being made in the City, Brits have a great feeling for the soil," he said. "They are inclined to invest money in land when times are good, and I see no reason why this should cease to be the case now."

John D Wood's pre-tax, half-year profits were £497,000 (£144,000 on turnover of £4.67 million (£3.64 million). Earnings were 6.1p (1.8p) per share, and the interim dividend, due March 5, 1.25p (0.75p).

## Sega seeks return of Sonic boom with £3bn merger

BY JASON NISSE

SEGA, the computer games maker famous for Sonic the Hedgehog, has turned for help to Bandai, creators of the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers toys, in a ¥600 billion (£3.1 billion) merger aimed at fighting off the challenge of Nintendo and Sony.

The move follows Nintendo's successful Christmas in the US and Japan with Ultra-64, its new computer console, which is vying with PlayStation, made by Sony, to lead the computer games market.

Sega Saturn, the rival to the two leaders, is seen by industry analysts as a flop. In December, Sega, which made losses last year, lowered its forecast of net profits from ¥10 billion to ¥5.3 billion.

Yesterday, Sega said it was to



Power Rangers to the rescue: Bandai, creator of the Mighty Morphins, is joining forces with Sega Saturn

merge with Bandai, the toy maker that has the best-selling toy in Japan — Virtual Pet, an electronic bird-like creature which dies if it is neglected. "We would like to become a global,

comprehensive, new entertainment company and expand further internationally," said Hayao Nakayama, president of Sega.

However, despite creating a com-

pany with annual sales of ¥600 billion, analysts in Japan questioned the strategy. "It is hard to see merit in the merger," said Yasuo Imanaka at the Okazaki Economic Research

Institute. "Both companies have problems in similar fields. I don't think the new group can beat Sony PlayStation."

Bandai admitted this month that it has misread the trend for cheaper products in the Japanese toy market, and would make a loss of ¥9 billion this year, compared with last year's ¥10.5 billion profit.

The launch of Nintendo's Ultra-64 console had a good start in Japan and sold out in the US over Christmas, matching the success of PlayStation. It launches in the UK in March and there is speculation that Sega may close its distribution arm, enabling Bandai, which used to distribute Nintendo, to sell Sega Saturn in the important pre-Christmas market.

Pennington, page 29

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## Manhattan Loft plans complex at Docklands

By JASON NISSE

A CONSORTIUM led by Manhattan Loft Corporation, the developer of fashionable flats, has put forward plans for a £150 million redevelopment of West India Quay, the London Docklands site that is to be linked to Canary Wharf via a foot bridge.

The scheme includes a 360ft tower housing a 250-bedroom hotel, 300 apartments — 90 of which will be loft conversions — 70,000 square feet of shops and restaurants, a supermarket and a multiplex cinema. It will also feature one of the largest piazzas in the country, which will open out onto the waterfront overlooked by Canary Wharf.

Harry Handelsman, chairman of Manhattan Loft, said the consortium had been talking with a number of operators about the hotel and the cinema complex and had an agreement with one of the big food retailers about operating the supermarket.

The consortium, which includes London & Eastern Properties and Marylebone Warwick Ballroom, came together when the London Docklands Development Corporation invited tenders for the regeneration of the site.

The LDDC will now decide whether to give planning permission and is expected to make a ruling by March so that work can begin in June.

Manhattan Loft is also involved in the Riverhead scheme, redeveloping the old Thames Water headquarters on the edge of the City, and the Bankside development behind the new Tate Gallery building on the South Bank.



Liza Bruce surrounded by models when they lobbied a Marks & Spencer meeting after she accused the company of copying her designs

## Bank reinforces warning to lenders on standards

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England has again warned high street banks not to lower their lending standards and store up bad debt and house repossession problems at the next economic downturn.

Michael Foot, the Bank's executive director for supervision, told a London conference that banks may not be able to detect the onset of the next downturn. For example, there was good reason to believe swings in nominal interest rates could be considerably less than they have been over the previous two decades.

The Bank's concern over rash lending decisions and the

pell-mell rush to sell home loans by banks and building societies, with attendant cashback and deeply discounted mortgages, has been a constant theme for almost a year.

Mr Foot said: "The bad debt experience of the last three years has been by any standards exceptionally low and it is exactly at such good points in the lending cycle in the past that credit officers begin to think 'it is always going to be like this', or, in the worst cases, that they can walk on water."

Mr Foot said that an analysis of 22 bank failures or cases where banks ran into severe

difficulties showed that, in 18 of the 22, mismanagement was a cause. In 16 of the 22, poor asset quality, or bad risk controls, was the contributory factor. Poor credit decisions seem to go hand in hand with weak management, he added.

As Mr Foot was expressing the Bank's concerns on bad credit management, the British Bankers' Association (BBA) was unveiling its proposed revision for accounting practice on mortgages by its members.

The association proposes that, in future, its members, which will shortly include the Halifax and Woolwich build-

ing societies, be far more transparent in how they treat cashback deals and mortgage discounts in their report and accounts. At present some immediately put their liabilities and costs into their accounts while others do it over a period of time. The association prefers the former method in most instances.

Tim Sweeney, the director-general of the association, said: "The BBA's guidance on mortgage incentives is intended to ensure that banks explain their policy and disclose the amounts involved."

Tempus, page 30

## Bruce M&S swimwear claim struck out

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

MARKS & SPENCER yesterday emerged victorious from its embarrassing legal spat with Liza Bruce, the swimwear designer, after her High Court action against the retailer was struck out.

Ms Bruce accused Marks & Spencer of copying one of her designs and then achieved a publicity coup by having models wearing her swimsuits, which sold at £120, and the Marks & Spencer swimsuits, which sold at £21, parade through the company's 1995 annual meeting. She held up a placard bearing the message: "Spot the difference."

Liquidators of the Liza Bruce company, which collapsed last year owing up to £300,000, were ordered by the High Court last week to give more details on the claim lodged against Marks & Spencer, but there has been no response. The action has automatically been struck out.

Marks & Spencer did not spare Ms Bruce's blushes yesterday. "Marks & Spencer did not 'steal' her 'exclusive' fabric or dip-dye technique. The fabric was actually developed by one of our suppliers and was not exclusive to her," Marks & Spencer said.

"We believe that Marks & Spencer has been made a scapegoat for Ms Bruce's financial problems without her having any real intention of having her claims tested to a court of law and have every confidence that her case would have been defeated had it gone to court," it said.

## Banking sector to create over 400 jobs

MORE THAN 400 jobs are being created in the banking sector, it was announced yesterday. The Co-operative Bank is creating 200 of them in Stockport in its fast-growing phone banking operation. It hopes to recruit mainly from the area's long-term unemployed. Of 200 recruits to the Stockport operation last year, 30 per cent were previously unemployed. Terry Thomas, the bank's managing director, said: "In the present economic climate, highly skilled and well motivated people can find themselves unemployed through no fault of their own." The recruits, who will receive 12 weeks' training, will handle most aspects of customer inquiries, except in a few specialist fields.

Royal Bank of Scotland expects to employ more than 200 people at a new credit card centre at Southend over the next five years. It will run in tandem with an existing site in Southend and is a response to the growth in credit card business. Royal Bank's credit card lending increased 72 per cent to £748 million last year.

## Halifax picks Cazenove

CAZENOVE, the broking house, was yesterday appointed joint broker to the £11 billion Halifax flotation, the largest public share offer to date. The Halifax said that Cazenove will act as joint broker, together with Merrill Lynch, to the planned summer stock market debut of Britain's largest building society. Deutsche Morgan Grenfell is merchant banker to the deal that will result in more than eight million savers and borrowers receiving free shares worth on average between £800 and £900. City Diary, page 31

## Celsis in Unilever deal

CELSIS INTERNATIONAL, the microbial testing company, has secured a three-year marketing deal with an arm of Unilever, that will accelerate US sales of systemSURE, its portable hygiene monitor. Diversey, the industrial cleaning company that Unilever bought last year, will combine the marketing of systemSURE with that of its own cleaning products to the food and drinks industry. The monitor tests levels of microbial contamination on the surfaces of manufacturing machinery.

## Tax demand poser

MORE THAN a hundred thousand people may not have received vital Inland Revenue documents concerning tax payments due at the end of the month. The demands are the first under the new self-assessment rules. Accountants say about 10 per cent of these clients due to pay tax by January 31 have not had statements. Those who fail to pay tax by January 31 will be charged 8.5 per cent interest, which will accrue daily. Even those who have not had bill notification will have to pay interest.

## British Land placement

BRITISH LAND, the property company, is raising \$160 million through a private placement of unsecured notes with institutional investors in America. The proceeds have been fully hedged in sterling and will be used for general corporate purposes, initially to repay existing bank debt. The issue of 7.35 per cent unsecured notes, due 2007, through SG Warburg, provided a new source of funds at competitive rates, the company said. British Land shares fell 7p to 518.5p.

## Japan's surplus falls

JAPAN'S trade surplus fell for the fourth year running in 1996, but a surge in exports to the US indicated that the downward trend was running out of steam. Figures released by the Finance Ministry yesterday showed the trade surplus for 1996 was down 82.4 per cent to 6.7 trillion yen (£33 billion). The surplus with Japan's most important source of friction, dropped 16.5 per cent to 2.55 trillion yen last year. Figures for December showed the overall surplus fell 20.6 per cent from a year earlier.

## New project for Ulster

LIBERTY MUTUAL, the American financial services group, is to set up a new company in Belfast to develop insurance software programmes. The £3.5 million project, which is being grant-aided by the Industrial Development Board, is expected to create 124 jobs over the next five years. Liberty Mutual is the first major US financial services group to set up a company in Northern Ireland. The company was involved in a bid to acquire the Ulster Bank last year.

## Lookers' new look

LOOKERS, the car dealer, is to sell five depots and close down a further two in a bid to reposition itself with larger dealerships more favourable to car manufacturers. More than 80 jobs will be lost at the two depots facing closure, although both these have still to be identified. Pre-tax profits were £8.09 million (£6.39 million) in the year to September 30, and earnings were 155p a share (55p). A final dividend of 5.4p, due April 30, makes a total of 8p (7.9p).

## Ryland turnover rises

RYLAND GROUP, the multi-franchise auto distributor based in the Midlands, lifted pre-tax profits to £2 million, from £1.55 million, in the half year ending October 31, on turnover up from £155 million to £201 million. Volume car sales were up 16 per cent. Earnings rose to 4.72p a share from 3.55p. A change of year-end means there is no interim dividend but a single final dividend of 2.68p a share is planned for the eight months to December 31 (previous total dividend 3.72p).

## Parkland lifts interim

PARKLAND GROUP, the consumer and industrial textiles company, is lifting the interim dividend 9.1 per cent, from 2.2p to 2.4p a share, after reporting an increase of almost 39 per cent in pre-tax profits to £1.45 million in the half year to November 1. However, earnings fell to 9.7p a share from 10.2p, reflecting an increase in the number of shares in issue after last May's £7.5 million placing and open offer.

## Magnox shake-up to shed workers

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of jobs are about to go at Magnox Electric, the state-owned nuclear generator.

Magnox which is seeking to ensure its viability after the demerger of its modern nuclear power stations into the privatised British Energy, has drawn up a survival plan with the aim of doubling operating profits by 2000.

A spokesman for Magnox, which is in talks to merge with BNFL, the nuclear waste reprocessing operation, said that job cuts and other cost-

saving measures were essential to restore Magnox's competitiveness with other generators. "We must earn our future," he said. The closure of some generators is possible.

Magnox aims to increase its operating profit to £200 million by the millennium. The generator is saddled with £8 billion worth of liabilities for waste clean-up. The company's performance has recently been undermined by a fall in output caused by temporary shutdowns.

## Return to Morgan Grenfell now unlikely, says Horlick

By GEORGE SIVELL

NICOLA HORLICK, the former Morgan Grenfell fund manager, admitted yesterday that she was not likely to get her £1 million-a-year job back. She said: "It's a bit unlikely I would say. I think I have got to be a bit realistic."

She added: "I think it is a bit difficult now. All the clients have been written to. The 35-year-old mother-of-five has already said legal proceedings were likely to be launched if an amicable solution was not reached quickly."

Deutsche Bank, Morgan Grenfell's parent, has stuck to the Morgan line of refusing to back down in the affair. Mrs Horlick said yesterday: "The lawyers are talking to each other."

Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, where Mrs Horlick headed the £18 billion UK pensions fund business, is concluding a report into the affair. The fund manager said yesterday: "The investigations are frankly irrelevant. We regard the matter as settled."

admitted on Wednesday, however, that she had been in preliminary talks with ABN Amro, a rival firm, until several days before she was suspended.

Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, where Mrs Horlick headed the £18 billion UK pensions fund business, is concluding a report into the affair.

The fund manager said yesterday: "The investigations are frankly irrelevant. We regard the matter as settled."

## 'Big Six' accused of acting as cartel

By ROBERT MILLER

THE Big Six accountants were accused yesterday of acting as a "cartel" and of protecting other "negligent" firms, to impose standard accounting practices on venture capital deals worth an estimated £2.5 billion annually.

The British Venture Capital Association (BVCA) has reported Price Waterhouse, Arthur Andersen, Coopers & Lybrand, KPMG, Ernst & Young and Deloitte & Touche, to the Office of Fair Trading. It said the firms have agreed to impose standard terms on venture capital companies so that liability on due diligence work — where an accountancy firm is hired to verify financial information about a venture capital company prior to investment — is limited.

The BVCA accused the Big Six of "using their position in this market to try to implement standard terms, which would not only be damaging to the venture capital industry, but for UK companies requiring venture capital". The association, which said that some £14 billion has been invested by UK venture capital firms since 1983, believes that the cartel agreement could also affect corporate finance deals and flotation work.

Graeme Robinson, a national corporate finance partner at Ernst & Young, said: "We spent some 18 months consulting on our memorandum with the BVCA. We are surprised at the association's action and refute the suggestion that we have acted as a cartel."

## Chief of 3i to take early retirement

By PAUL DURMAN

EWEN MACPHERSON, the chief executive who steered 3i on to the stock market, is to take early retirement from Britain's leading investment capital company.

Mr Macpherson, who was 55 at the weekend, said he wanted to reduce his workload. "I've been running pretty hard for the last seven years, first as finance director and then as chief executive. Running public companies is not like sitting around in the garden."

His five years as chief executive saw substantial streamlining of the business and two large share placings by the banks that were the original owners.

He will be succeeded by Brian Lacombe, 3i's director for finance and planning. Mr

Lacombe will take over after the annual meeting in July. Mr Macpherson, who earned £392,000 last year, has worked at 3i since 1970. He has a shareholding currently worth £5.3 million, having exercised most of his options during the past six months.

Although he will not seek another executive role, he intends to carry on working as a non-executive director. He is already on the boards of ScottishPower and M&G Group and is considering another approach. He will also have more time to pursue his hobbies of gardening, sailing and vintage cars.

The company's shares have performed strongly since its 1994 flotation, climbing from 272p to 526p yesterday.

## British target high-rollers on the Strip in ground-breaking deal

## London Clubs pulls off Las Vegas coup

By ALAN DAIR MURRAY

LONDON CLUBS International is set to become the first British gaming company on the "Strip" in Las Vegas — the capital of the world's gambling industry — after signing a \$50 million agreement to help redevelop the Aladdin Hotel and Casino.

The company, which owns the Ritz and Les Ambassadeurs casinos in London, will operate a 30 table premium player facility — aimed at high-rollers — which will be incorporated in the main casino. Gamblers will be able to stake up to \$100,000 on the tables, while the 100 linked slot machines will offer a potential jackpot of more than \$1 million.

The 125,000 sq ft casino is part of a \$750 million redevelopment on the site in Las Vegas Boulevard which will also include a 2,600 room hotel and a separately owned and operated entertainment shopping mall. The redevelopment, which is expected to take two years, is being organised by the family-owned Aladdin Gaming Corporation, which also owns the Bankers Trust building in New York.

Alan Goodenough, London Clubs chief executive, said the site was the best undeveloped location in Las Vegas, situated in the middle of the town next to other famous casinos such as the MGM. London Clubs is taking a 25 per cent equity stake in the hospitality and gaming operations and the underlying

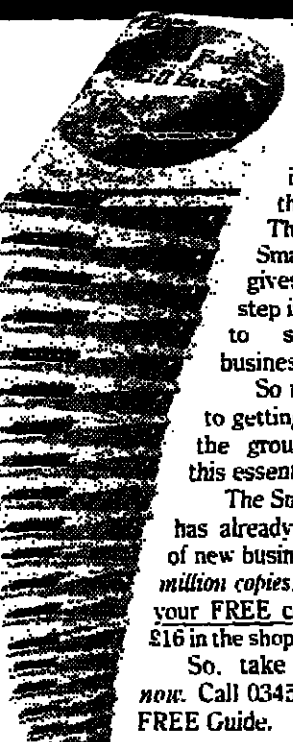
real estate. It will also take a seat on the Aladdin Corporation's board.

The Las Vegas venture confirms the London Club's policy of expanding its gaming interests abroad. The company already operates in the South of France and Egypt as well as the Casino du Liban in Beirut, the first casino to re-open in that country since the end of the civil war.

Mr Goodenough added that the company was close to signing a joint-venture with a South African partner to bid for the newly available licences in the South African provinces.

London Clubs will use cash from internal sources to fund the purchase. The company's shares rose 15p to 345p yesterday, a new high. Tempus, page 30

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| Bank                   | Share | Bank                | Share |
|------------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| Australia              | 15.70 | Barclays            | 15.70 |
| Bank of America        | 57.55 | Bank of India       | 57.55 |
| Bank of China          | 2.55  | Bank of Japan       | 2.55  |
| Bank of Communications | 10.72 | Bank of Korea       | 10.72 |
| Bank of India          | 5.46  | Bank of Malaysia    | 5.46  |
| Bank of Japan          | 2.81  | Bank of New Zealand | 2.81  |
| Bank of Korea          | 12.25 | Bank of Norway      | 12.25 |
| Bank of Malaysia       | 1.07  | Bank of Portugal    | 1.07  |
| Bank of New Zealand    | 2.07  | Bank of Russia      | 2.07  |
| Bank of Norway         | 11.25 | Bank of Sweden      | 11.25 |
| Bank of Portugal       | 2.07  | Bank of Switzerland | 2.07  |
| Bank of Russia         | 2.07  | Bank of Taiwan      | 2.07  |
| Bank of Sweden         | 11.25 | Bank of Thailand    | 11.25 |
| Bank of Switzerland    | 2.07  | Bank of Turkey      | 2.07  |
| Bank of Taiwan         | 2.07  | Bank of Ukraine     | 2.07  |
| Bank of Thailand       | 11.25 | Bank of USA         | 1.07  |
| Bank of Turkey         | 2.07  |                     |       |
| Bank of Ukraine        | 2.07  |                     |       |
| Bank of USA            | 1.07  |                     |       |

Goodenough: "best location"



□ Benefits that come from a hostile takeover □ Big Six agreement under fire □ Fresh outbreak of Japanese video wars

## William Cook — The Movie

□ THERE is a strong whiff of 1980s Wall Street — the market and the movie — in the attempt by William Cook to evade seemingly inevitable takeover by Triplex Lloyd. Consider this plot. Small family firm is about to be swallowed by ruthless asset-stripping conglomerate more concerned about profit than the future of the employees.

Energetic, photogenic chairman, in last-minute dash around the moneyman, scrapes together enough cash and goodwill to fight back. Tearful appeal to shareholders — some things are worth more than money. Family honour restored. Cut from shot of angry asset-strippers. Pull back from face of old retainer, tears of joy running down his cheeks, to take in smiling workforce around him. Fade.

Except that there are a few scenes in this script that do not fit into the picture. This has been a particularly badly behaved takeover bid from the start, no matter its small size. Cook had been run in a way that contravened every code of corporate governance — five-year rolling contracts, no audit or remuneration committees, no finance director — a policy that undermined the share price and encouraged institutions to approach Triplex to bid.

The company has been in trouble before about claims by Andrew Cook, the chairman, that had to be retracted. The terms of the leveraged buyout were available on the streets of the capital mid-morning yesterday, prompting an inevitable suspension of the shares. No suggestion that Mr Cook was the source of the newspaper leak — it could easily have come from one of the buyout partners. The authorities should find out how the terms got out — and if anyone deals beforehand.

Triplex has the option of a higher offer still, although the board will be cautious because the shares had been falling on concerns that the bid is too high already. Mr Cook has now taken his company private, which is where it probably should have been all along.

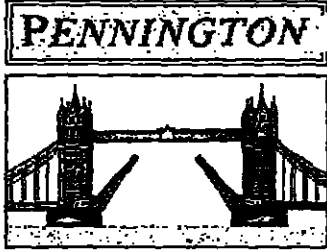
His backers are taking the view that the 11.3 times' this year's earnings and the 9.4 times' next year's they are paying is a cheap price, if the company can be made to perform.

William Cook has been dragged, kicking and screaming, into the latter half of the 20th century by a hostile takeover bid, which is one justification for the existence of such a process. Triplex arrived because the company was undervalued, as it was not seen as run for the benefit of shareholders.

Just one message for Mr Cook, who was known to chafe at the normal constraints of corporate governance. Just see how you enjoy being run by a clutch of hard-headed venture capitalists.

### Limiting the liability

□ THERE is nothing more cautious than a scared accountant — and the big accountants are truly running scared. Plenty are heading for Jersey and the warmer shores of limited liability partnership, which prevents huge payouts should the bean-counters put a few noughts in the wrong place.



The accountants have watered down the auditor's report in every set of accounts so it serves their interests, not those of the shareholders. Time was, the latter could turn to this and see, in simple language, if the books were cooked or not. The new form of words is hedged with escape clauses for the accountants that allow them to tip toe away if the company collapses.

Now the Big Six want to limit their liability in cases where they have run their eye over the books in a venture capital deal. In November they asked the Office of Fair Trading to sanction an agreement that limited claims on

any one deal to £25 million and introduces proportionality.

This principle requires that in a court case all the parties involved can be sued by any aggrieved party, rather than the whole action falling on the richest. This tends to be the accountant, rather than the vendor who has sold dross as pure gold while keeping his house in his wife's name.

Venture capital is singled out because it is highly risky, and because deals are often done so quickly that normal, plodding due diligence procedure is impossible. The venture capitalists complain that the proposed agreement is a cartel, which is not under any normal definition.

It is another clear attempt by big accountants to limit their liabilities, even if only 46 of the 560 management buy-outs in 1995 were big enough to exceed that £25 million limit. The accountants claim, not entirely convincingly, that higher litigation insurance is not a feasible alternative.

They are not saying if they plan to extend the same limitation, if hammered through the OFT, to takeovers or stock market flotations, also areas where mistakes can prove expensive in court. But you can bet they are thinking about it.

### Sonic on the road to another hiding

□ THE queues are already forming at the shops for *Video Wars III*, the new computer game. The original *Video Wars* pitted Sonic the Hedgehog, flying the Sega flag, against arch enemy Super Mario, from the Nintendo stable. Both managed to end on top, by charging more than £40 for each game; the losers were the parents of children obsessed with the things.

Then came *Video Games II*. Sonic advanced with his new battle console, the Sega Saturn, only to come face to face with the Bandicoot, a small destructive rodent carried by the Sony

PlayStation. The Bandicoot was powered by the Formula One Grand Prix game (featuring commentary from Murray Walker) and promptly ran over the hedgehog.

*Video Games III* promises a even bloodier battle. Super Mario is back with *Ultra 64*, a success in the US and Japan which lands in the UK in March, parents be warned. Sonic has turned for help to the Power Rangers, in an alliance between Sega and the toymaker Bandai.

Just one glitch. Bandai is in an even worse state than Sega. It has misread market trends and is predicting losses of ¥9billion this year. Game to the rat and the plumber.

### Ford dinosaurs

□ IF WILLIAM COOK looks a rerun of the 1980s, Ford at Halewood is a return to the union rhetoric of the previous decade. Workers are "victims" who do not "deserve" to lose their jobs. And their "genuine anger" is bringing them out on strike. Oh dear. The Halewood workers would do better to formulate a watertight economic case for keeping the plant open. That is the reality of the industrial 1990s.

## Medeva alliance with Peptide boosts shares

By PAUL DURMAN

MEDEVA, the drugs company, gave a boost to the biopharmaceutical sector yesterday when it announced a strategic alliance with Peptide Therapeutics, a successful trial of a product being developed with Chiroscience, and important progress on its own hepatitis B vaccine.

Shares in all three companies rose strongly. Medeva climbed 8½p to 289p, Chiroscience 9p to 327½p and Peptide 47½p to 289p. Another strong climber was British Biotech, the biggest biotechnology group, whose shares closed 21½p higher at 230p.

Peptide has agreed to pay Medeva £1 million for the rights to develop non-inject-

able vaccines for typhoid, flu and travellers' diarrhoea or enterotoxigenic *E. coli*, the illness that recently caused a spate of deaths in Scotland. Peptide expects to spend £1 million on the development work over the next two years.

However, the City focused on the 340p a share that Medeva is paying in acquiring a 2.5 per cent stake in Peptide for a total of £3 million. Medeva is paying 40 per cent more than Peptide's opening price yesterday.

John Brown, Peptide's finance director, said the price was based on financial modelling of "what we could make this worth". He added: "We think it's a good reflection of

the value in the company."

Medeva said phase 3 trials of Hepagene, its hepatitis B vaccine, confirmed that it was effective in protecting individuals who had not benefited from other vaccines. In a 925-patient study, Hepagene produced a positive response in 80 per cent of those who received it.

After its recent victory in a patent dispute over Hepagene, Medeva plans next year to file product licence applications for both Europe and the US. It will also test the benefits of Hepagene for high-risk groups, such as kidney dialysis patients and babies born to chronically affected mothers.

Medeva is also stepping up trials of the improved version

of methylphenidate that it is developing with Chiroscience. Methylphenidate, a treatment for hyperactive children, is Medeva's best-selling drug.

Methylphenidate is not long-lasting, and teachers are often required to administer the drug at mid-day. This is unpopular with both children and teachers. Medeva and Chiroscience hope that the single isomer version will be longer-lasting and will only need to be administered once a day.

John Padfield, chief executive of Chiroscience, said the company may challenge Celgene, a US firm working on the same isomer, and hopefully establish patent rights over the isomer, a first for the company.

### Menswear mars picture at Burton

DISAPPOINTING news on trading at Burton Menswear punctured an otherwise buoyant report from its parent company about sales over Christmas (Sarah Cunningham writes). Burton Group sales in the 20 weeks to January 18 were 11.1 per cent up if its mail order acquisitions, Racing Green and Innovations, are included. Without them, sales were up 7.3 per cent. Burton Menswear sales were down, although adjusting for a reduction in space shows sales slightly up. Dorothy Perkins, Principles, Evans, Top Shop and Top Man were ahead and taken as a group, the clothing chains' sales were up 5.4 per cent. Debenhams sales were up 9.1 per cent. *Tempus*, page 30

## Morland expands food interests

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

MORLAND, the regional brewer, entered the restaurant business yesterday with the £32 million purchase of the Exchange Bar Diners chain from Allied Domecq.

The company, best-known for its Speckled Hen real ale, is buying the 24-strong chain to strengthen its presence in the fast-growing eating-out market. Morland's main existing food outlet is the Artists Fayre food pub brand.

Morland is also buying 16 managed pubs in London and the South East from Whitbread for £3.4 million. It is raising £22.2 million via a rights issue, offering one new share for every six existing shares at 500p. Morland shares fell 2½p to 585p.

The chain of Exchange Bar

cafés made an operating profit before financing costs of £2.3 million on total sales of £19.1 million in the year to August 31. Ian Jones, who helped to found the chain when he worked at Allied Domecq, will become operations director. Three of the bar restaurants will be converted to Morland's other brands, with one existing Morland's outlet converting immediately to the Exchange brand.

Allied Domecq said that it had decided to sell the Exchange Bar chain because it did not form part of its core pub-development strategy. Its shares jumped 10p to close at 423½p after positive comment from analysts.

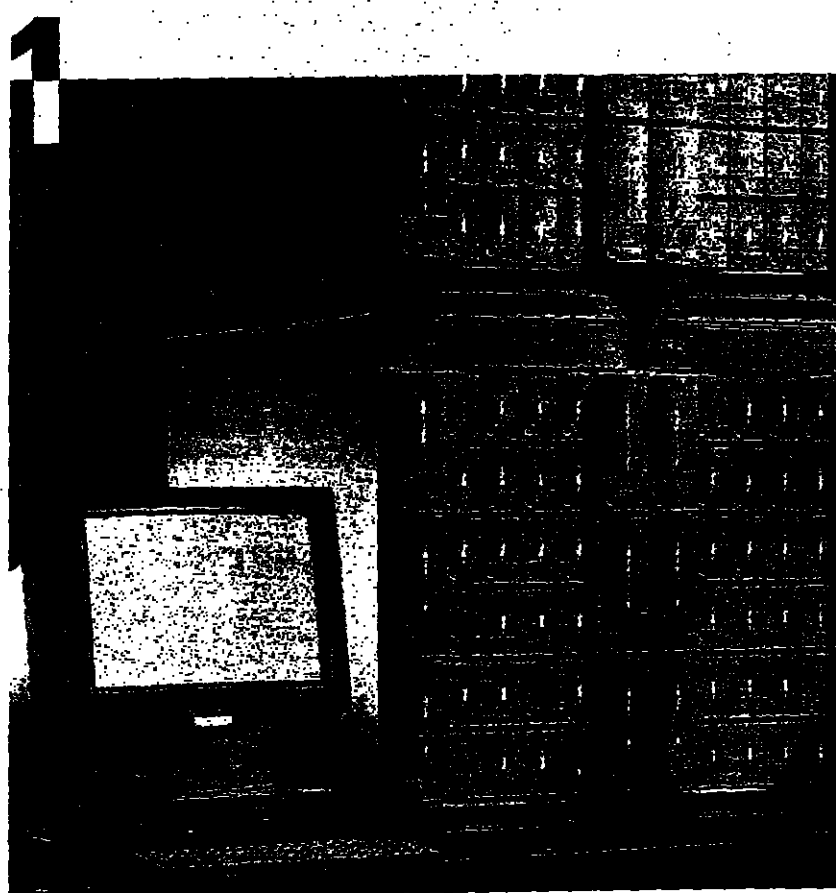
*Tempus*, page 30

### Protest over Airtours scheme fails

DAVID CROSSLAND, chairman of Airtours, yesterday defended the company's controversial decision to introduce a new incentive plan without shareholder approval and was backed by investors for his stance (Jason Nisse writes).

A move led by Pirc, the corporate governance lobby group, to vote against adoption of the Airtours accounts in protest at the move, was heavily defeated. Mr Crossland said Airtours needed to ensure it kept 45 key executives at a time when First Choice, a competitor, was trying to strengthen its management. Airtours bookings were 10 per cent ahead of last year, he added.

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# Siemens Nixdorf: User Centred Computing







THE  
TIMES  
CITY  
DIARY

It's not the  
real thing

A FROTH is whipping up between Coca-Cola and an American company that makes automated milking machines. Babson Brothers is expected to throw a huge spanner in the beverage giant's \$50 million launch of a new soft drink called "Singer" during the Superbowl XXXI on Sunday.

Illinois-based Babson is claiming that it has held the trademark on the name since 1925, for its milking equipment and industrial cleaning products. It says that the public's health could be at risk, arguing that consumers might confuse Babson's green-coloured industrial cleaning products with Coke's high-calcium drink that is the same colour.

If a settlement isn't reached today, a judge may issue a temporary injunction, bringing the launch to a halt.

United we stand

CONGRATULATIONS to Sheffield United, the Conrads, which was last night awarded Northwest textile share of the year by accountants Coopers & Lybrand. Could this be the same Coopers & Lybrand which, in 1992, recommended putting Conrads into receivership? Thankfully the advice was rejected. Mike Edelson, the man behind Conrads' recovery, offered to deliver a speech at the award ceremony Coopers defined.

SO, Nicola Horlick has a doppelgänger. Anyone who saw ITN's interview at Horlick's £125 million home in Chelsea might easily have mistaken Superwoman's long-suffering nanny Joan Buckfield for her long-forgotten sister. So the old adage is true after all: people employ in their likeness.



"I would prefer dollars or marks this week"

Branching out

GUILT-RIDDEN executives at Halifax Building Society yesterday launched the first in a series of "Woodland Initiatives". Acutely aware of the number of trees that will bite the dust during the building society's conversion, the Halifax has joined forces with two leading environmental charities to co-ordinate a UK-wide programme of paper recycling and woodland regeneration. Around 30,000 saplings will be planted by the end of March. But what about the postmen? Due to health and safety requirements, they were only able to carry 25 voting packs at a time.

All Heart

CHRIS WRIGHT was out for blood yesterday. The multimillionaire boss of Chrysalis ordered David Prever, one of Wright's radio station hosts on Heart 106.2, to give blood live on air. Wright issued the ultimatum during a visit from the Blood Transfusion Service to the London station's studios. Under the watchful eye of his employer, Prever donated a pint of blood, while Kara Noble, his co-host, fled the building an hour before the end of the show. Wright refused to give blood himself.

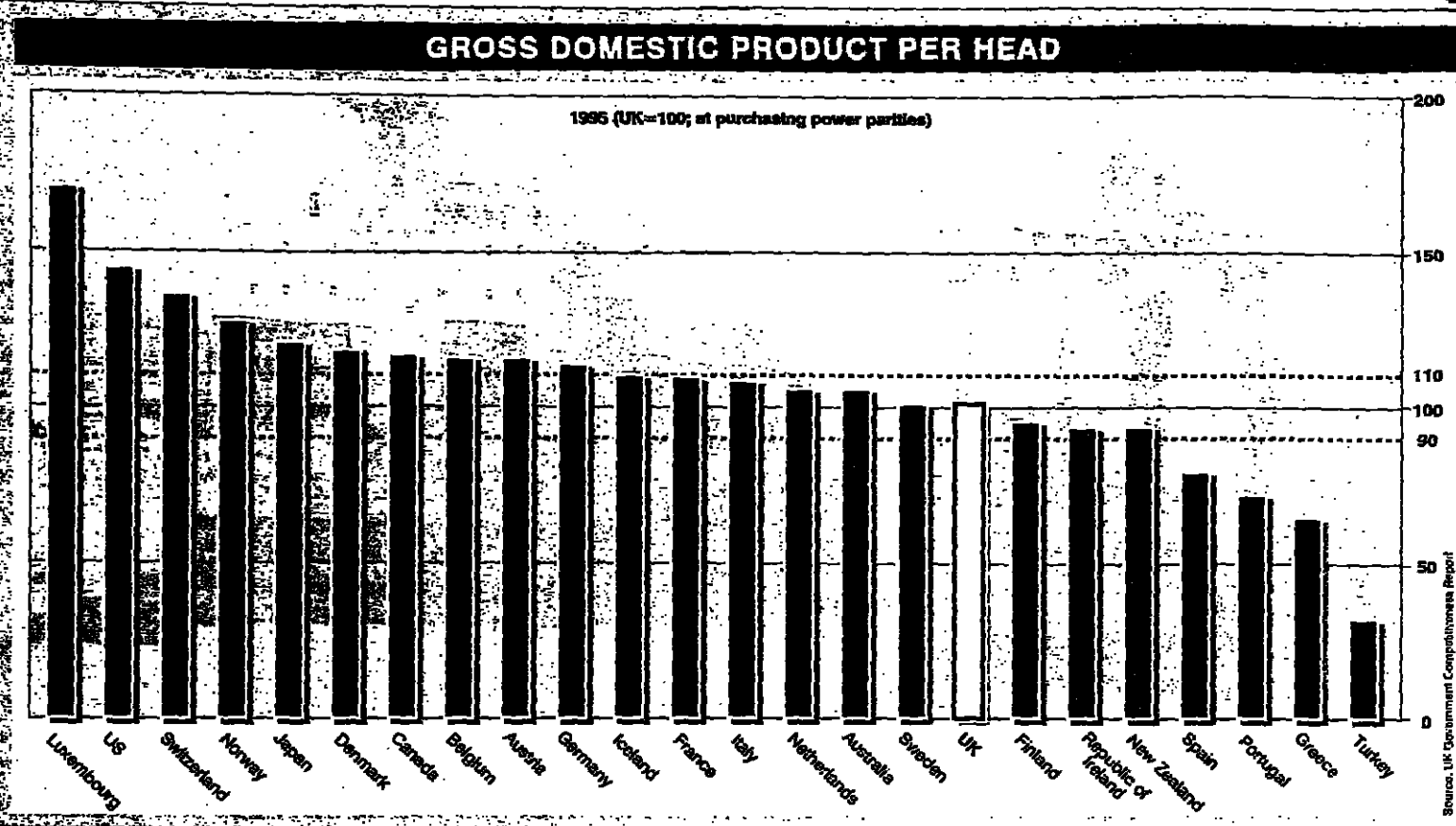
MORAG PRESTON

# Controversy conceals a sound agenda

Logic may fare badly in parts of the IPPR report, but it contains some useful insights

Successful businessmen are rarely logical thinkers, especially when it comes to questions of business and economics. This paradox is not as odd as it seems. If you consider the challenge of playing a trade in a huge open market, against thousands of competitors who are generally at least as clever and determined as you are, there is usually one logical course of action: to give up. This is, indeed, the central tenet of market economics. In an efficient, competitive market, it is impossible to make abnormal profits. To succeed in business requires an element of irrational self-confidence, a healthy contempt for theoretical economics and a blindness to obstacles and risks. It also requires a certain intellectual ruthlessness: you do not pursue an argument to its logical conclusion if it goes against your business instinct or the interests of your business might be hurt.

The purpose of this preamble is simply to explain why I was pleasantly surprised by the controversial economic blueprint for Britain published this week by the Institute for Public Policy Research, the leftish think-tank whose public pronouncements are often thought to prefigure the policies that might be pursued by a Labour government led by Tony Blair. The self-styled Commission on Public Policy and British Business which penned *Promoting Prosperity: A Business Agenda*



for Britain included no less than nine senior businessmen among its 15 commissioners and the report does contain a number of serious logical flaws. But it also contains some important insights and offers the outline of a sound economic agenda for future governments of either party.

The first and most important insight is simply that the situation in Britain is neither as good as the Tories are pretending nor nearly as bad as Labour claims. Britain's level of economic development is almost identical to that of most European countries. Britain is significantly poorer than America, Switzerland and Japan, but most of the other European countries, including Germany, France and Italy, are within 10 per cent of the British standard of living. This is the kind of gap that can easily be closed by a few years of economic growth. The worst that can be said about Britain's present level of economic development relative to Germany, for example, is that it will take another three or four years for Britons to reach the average living standards enjoyed by the Germans today. This gap is not remotely big enough to justify extreme measures to shake up the British economic system, nor to inspire the hand-wringing about Britain's place in the world that remains fashionable among Labour politicians and advocates of monetary union.

To their credit, the authors of the IPPR report do not endorse such unwarranted pessimism. Their proposals for reforms in taxation, education and training, competition policy and corporate governance (which have been described in detail on these pages in the past few weeks by Philip Basset, our industrial editor) are modest and incremental. They clearly reject the premise, shared equally by the Labour left and the Euro-enthusiastic Tories, that Britain's economy faces some kind of structural crisis and needs to be rescued by German-style management or some other revolutionary reform.

Even on the question of EMU membership, which the commissioners reluctantly endorse, they rightly reject the bogus pseudo-economic arguments about the costs of currency fluctuations and the futility of running monetary policy at the national level. They admit that the only compelling argument for joining the single currency is political. This is the danger that Britain will be excluded from EU decision-making and the European single market if it stays out. Against this they weigh the political cost of accepting the "entirely undemocratic" framework for monetary policy designed by the Maastricht treaty.

Looking at the commission's microeconomic proposals, there were three themes deserving of special note. First there is the faith in education, enthusiastically shared by Tony Blair. The commission is right to emphasise that the main failings in the British education system lie at the bottom of the ability scale, not the top. Recreating grammar schools may be popular among Tory voters, but it will do nothing to help the victims of the real education problem: the minority of children who drop out of school unable to read, write and count. The commission is also right to suggest that university students should meet more of the cost of their own education, probably through tax-based loans. Where the commission falls down is in drawing a straight line between education and national economic performance.

The very low scores achieved by American schools in international tests contrast with a strong economic and productivity performance. Meanwhile, Germany's high educational achievements no longer seem to generate superior economic growth. A far more extreme example of the same disjunction is Russia. Logic suggests that the link between formal education and economic performance is tenuous and, at best, extremely long-term. Education, including the high-quality academic research which has recently been grossly underfunded in Britain, is the commission's right note, should be seen as an end in itself and not just as a means to better economic performance. The danger of linking education and economics too closely is not only that educational values will be distorted. It is also that other, more important, factors of economic performance will be overlooked. This is a trap into which Gordon Brown has been all too eager to fall, deliberately neglecting the decisive role of macroeconomics and exchange-rate policy in long-term business performance.

In this respect *Promoting Prosperity* represents a significant improvement on much recent thinking, both in the Labour Party and the business community. The report states unequivocally that government demand management, using both monetary and fiscal policy, is a necessary condition for economic stability and business success. It also notes that a competitively-valued currency should be a separate objective of macroeconomic policy, to be achieved if necessary by raising taxes and simultaneously reducing interest rates.

Unfortunately the businessmen's logic fails them when they try to draw concrete policy implications from these admirable statements of principle. For example, while calling for a more pragmatic policy to stabilise economic growth and exchange rates, they also demand more "stickiness in the use of policy instruments" — interest rates and taxes "should not be moved so much". They demand greater co-ordination of fiscal and monetary policy, but simultaneously call for a totally independent central bank. They also shy away from any specific suggestions about the new taxes necessary to achieve their ambitions for a properly funded education system and a new policy mix of lower budget deficits and lower interest rates.

This last lacuna is most striking in the sections dealing with issues of corporate responsibility to "stakeholders" and the alleged short-termism of British business, the Commission rightly gives short shrift to proposals for radical changes, either in the laws governing directors or in the present relationships between companies and institutional investors. However, the report bemoans the concentration of equity ownership in the hands of investment institutions and deplores the strong bias in the British tax system in favour of dividends, rather than profit reinvestment. The logical conclusion would seem to be clear: corporate tax should be reformed to stop subsidising the dividends received by pension funds.

At this point, however, the commissioners suffer from the kind of logical lapse which is all too familiar among businessmen when their corporate interests are involved. Instead of proposing the abolition of dividend imputation, a tax reform that could save the Treasury some £5 billion and potentially pay for all their proposals for education and fiscal tightening, the commissioners shrink back. "Ending the imputation system could arouse opposition in the pensions industry. We certainly accept that a design criterion for any tax change must be that it should not penalise tax-exempt institutions."

Could those two sentences have been written by one of the commission's prominent business members: Sir Christopher Harding, chairman of Legal & General, which happens to be Britain's second-biggest life insurance and pensions group?

## Fortunes netted in the soccer club boardroom

Jason Nissé on the football fat cats triumphing off the pitch

Fabrizio Ravanelli, the Italian striker known as the "white feather", is paid £2 million a year by the Premiership's bottom club, Middlesbrough. But this fortune, believed to be the highest salary in British soccer, does not bring success for the team or his loyalty — Ravanelli has been regularly quoted in the Italian press criticising the team and saying it will be relegated.

Envious eyes have been cast towards Ravanelli by those inside and outside the game. But those who think it is only the football players who are making a mint out of the current boom in British soccer are wrong. The place to be in is the boardroom.

Depending on the price at which the City values Newcastle United, Sir John Hall will add up to £120 million to the massive fortune he has accumulated turning slag heaps into shopping centres. His company, Cameron Hall Developments, is expected to retain around 60 per cent of the club after float, with Shepherd Offshore, the old exploration company run by Freddy Shepherd, Newcastle's deputy chairman, keeping about 15 per cent. Contrary to popular belief Sir John has not put a penny into the club since buying control for around £8 million in 1991. But for guaranteeing its debts with Barclays Bank he will end up with a profit of over £100 million.

But Sir John is not the only, or even the biggest, football fat cat. The explosion in value of clubs — whose share prices took the Millwall collapse in their stride — has made multimillionaires out of the tycoons who have bet their fortunes on football.

Martin Edwards, chief executive of Manchester United, must be kicking himself for selling 1.4 million shares at 270p in April last year and another 5.1 million at 450p in the summer. The deals may have netted him £26.7 million, but the shares have since soared to over 700p. His remaining stake is worth £75 million, which is not bad considering he wanted to sell the club to Michael Knighton for £10 million in 1990.

Doug Ellis, known as "deadly Doug" for his habit of sacking managers, has been involved at Aston Villa for decades. But he only gained control in 1982, paying £500,000 for an interest, which has now been diluted to 47 per cent. The share restructuring



Ravanelli cannot compete with boardroom earnings

last year may have technically wrested control from Mr Ellis, but it was structured in such a way as to add to his wealth and he appears more determined than ever to stay in charge. Recently an auction of Aston Villa shares by its brokers, Albert E. Sharp, pushed the share price up to £120 each, valuing the club at £108 million and Mr Ellis's holding at £51 million.

Kremlinologists have spent many hours trying to work out the unusual share structure of Arsenal. Officially David Dein, the vice chairman, owns 29.8 per cent of the club, while his friend, Danny Fiszman, a diamond dealer, owns 27 per cent. However there is double counting as the two are said to be interested in the same 13 per cent stake. Nevertheless, between the two they managed to own a controlling interest in the club now worth £104 million. How Peter Hill-Wood, Arsenal's chairman and a director of Hambros Bank, must be eating his words. When Mr Dein bought his original 17 per

cent for a mere £290,000 in 1983, Mr Hill-Wood said: "He must be crazy."

Peter Johnson is also sitting on a tidy profit from his investment in Everton. The hamper magnate bought a majority stake just three years ago for £10 million. Since then there has been a £15 million rights issue, which Mr Johnson underwrote but, given the generous terms it offered, his holding was cut to 70 per cent.

million respectively. Across town at Rangers, David Murray, the Edinburgh-based property and construction tycoon is exceedingly happy with his involvement at Rangers. His company, Murray International, bought an 82 per cent interest in the club for a derisory £6 million in 1988. This week's deal with Joseph Lewis valued Murray International's remaining holding at a mouthwatering £98 million.

Terry Venables is considered by many to be an astute football manager. But in the finance world he is not renowned for his acumen. When Alan Sugar joined forces with Mr Venables to rescue Tottenham Hotspur, they both put £3.7 million into the club. After they fell out, Mr Venables sold his shares for £3 million. Mr Sugar held on. His stake is now worth £54 million.

The late Matthew Harding was also a shrewd investor. He put £15 million into Chelsea Village, the holding company for Chelsea, last summer and the executives of his estate recently agreed to invest another £4.5 million. The holding is now worth £50 million.

The recent flurry of deals in the football sector has been a boon for many of those involved. When Caspian Group took over Leeds United, Bill Fotherby, the club's new chairman, received £5.4 million for his stake in Leeds, much of which had been granted to him in a controversial restructuring only a year before. In October both he and Robin Lauder, the former Manchester United finance director who Caspian tempted over to run Leeds, bought 500,000 shares, each paying £131,000. The shares are now valued at £220,000.

At Sunderland, the main beneficiary of the pre-Christmas float is Bob Murray, the chairman, who has seen a controlling interest he bought for a few thousand pounds in 1986 valued at £24 million. But Peter Reid, the team manager, has also done well, having been given 400,000 shares now worth nearly £3 million.

And finally two tycoons who hardly need to add to their fortunes are Stephen Boler, the kitchens king, and John Wardle of JD Sports, the retailer. They agreed to put £10.6 million into Manchester City at the end of last month. The stake they received for their pains is currently priced at £25.6 million.

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# Another record for shares

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

| Company                         | Price  | Change | %    | Dividend | Yield | P/E    |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|------|----------|-------|--------|
| <b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>      |        |        |      |          |       |        |
| Heineken                        | 18.50  | +0.10  | +0.5 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 18.50  |
| Carlsberg                       | 15.00  | +0.05  | +0.3 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00  |
| Guinness                        | 12.00  | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 12.00  |
| <b>BANKS</b>                    |        |        |      |          |       |        |
| Barclays                        | 120.00 | +1.00  | +0.8 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 120.00 |
| HSBC                            | 110.00 | +0.50  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 110.00 |
| Midland                         | 95.00  | +0.20  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 95.00  |
| <b>BREWERS, PUBS &amp; REST</b> |        |        |      |          |       |        |
| Asahi                           | 15.00  | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00  |
| Beck's                          | 14.00  | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00  |
| Carlsberg                       | 15.00  | +0.05  | +0.3 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00  |
| <b>UNIVERSAL INDUSTRIAL</b>     |        |        |      |          |       |        |
| Unilever                        | 12.00  | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 12.00  |
| Roche                           | 11.00  | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 11.00  |
| Novartis                        | 10.00  | +0.01  | +0.1 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 10.00  |
| <b>ENGINEERING VEHICLES</b>     |        |        |      |          |       |        |
| BMW                             | 15.00  | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00  |
| Vauxhall                        | 14.00  | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00  |
| Ford                            | 13.00  | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00  |
| <b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>       |        |        |      |          |       |        |
| Unilever                        | 12.00  | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 12.00  |
| Roche                           | 11.00  | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 11.00  |
| Novartis                        | 10.00  | +0.01  | +0.1 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 10.00  |
| <b>BUILDING &amp; CONSTRUCT</b> |        |        |      |          |       |        |
| Arcon                           | 15.00  | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00  |
| Woolworth                       | 14.00  | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00  |
| Debenhams                       | 13.00  | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00  |
| <b>ELECTRONIC</b>               |        |        |      |          |       |        |
| Amstrad                         | 15.00  | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00  |
| Philips                         | 14.00  | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00  |
| Sony                            | 13.00  | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00  |
| <b>ELECTRONIC &amp; ELECT</b>   |        |        |      |          |       |        |
| Amstrad                         | 15.00  | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00  |
| Philips                         | 14.00  | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00  |
| Sony                            | 13.00  | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00  |
| <b>HEALTHCARE</b>               |        |        |      |          |       |        |
| Roche                           | 11.00  | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 11.00  |
| Novartis                        | 10.00  | +0.01  | +0.1 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 10.00  |
| Glaxo                           | 9.00   | +0.01  | +0.1 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 9.00   |
| <b>HOUSEHOLD GOODS</b>          |        |        |      |          |       |        |
| Debenhams                       | 13.00  | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00  |
| Woolworth                       | 14.00  | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00  |
| Arcon                           | 15.00  | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00  |
| <b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>       |        |        |      |          |       |        |
| Arcon                           | 15.00  | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00  |
| Woolworth                       | 14.00  | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00  |
| Debenhams                       | 13.00  | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00  |
| <b>ENGINEERING</b>              |        |        |      |          |       |        |
| BMW                             | 15.00  | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00  |
| Vauxhall                        | 14.00  | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00  |
| Ford                            | 13.00  | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00  |
| <b>INSURANCE</b>                |        |        |      |          |       |        |
| Aviva                           | 15.00  | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00  |
| Prudential                      | 14.00  | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00  |
| Legal & General                 | 13.00  | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00  |
| <b>CHEMICALS</b>                |        |        |      |          |       |        |
| Roche                           | 11.00  | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 11.00  |
| Novartis                        | 10.00  | +0.01  | +0.1 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 10.00  |
| Glaxo                           | 9.00   | +0.01  | +0.1 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 9.00   |
| <b>DISTRIBUTORS</b>             |        |        |      |          |       |        |
| Debenhams                       | 13.00  | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00  |
| Woolworth                       | 14.00  | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00  |
| Arcon                           | 15.00  | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00  |

| Company                         | Price | Change | %    | Dividend | Yield | P/E   |
|---------------------------------|-------|--------|------|----------|-------|-------|
| <b>ENGINEERING VEHICLES</b>     |       |        |      |          |       |       |
| BMW                             | 15.00 | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00 |
| Vauxhall                        | 14.00 | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00 |
| Ford                            | 13.00 | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00 |
| <b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>       |       |        |      |          |       |       |
| Unilever                        | 12.00 | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 12.00 |
| Roche                           | 11.00 | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 11.00 |
| Novartis                        | 10.00 | +0.01  | +0.1 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 10.00 |
| <b>BUILDING &amp; CONSTRUCT</b> |       |        |      |          |       |       |
| Arcon                           | 15.00 | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00 |
| Woolworth                       | 14.00 | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00 |
| Debenhams                       | 13.00 | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00 |
| <b>ELECTRONIC</b>               |       |        |      |          |       |       |
| Amstrad                         | 15.00 | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00 |
| Philips                         | 14.00 | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00 |
| Sony                            | 13.00 | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00 |
| <b>ELECTRONIC &amp; ELECT</b>   |       |        |      |          |       |       |
| Amstrad                         | 15.00 | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00 |
| Philips                         | 14.00 | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00 |
| Sony                            | 13.00 | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00 |
| <b>HEALTHCARE</b>               |       |        |      |          |       |       |
| Roche                           | 11.00 | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 11.00 |
| Novartis                        | 10.00 | +0.01  | +0.1 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 10.00 |
| Glaxo                           | 9.00  | +0.01  | +0.1 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 9.00  |
| <b>HOUSEHOLD GOODS</b>          |       |        |      |          |       |       |
| Debenhams                       | 13.00 | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00 |
| Woolworth                       | 14.00 | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00 |
| Arcon                           | 15.00 | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00 |
| <b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>       |       |        |      |          |       |       |
| Arcon                           | 15.00 | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00 |
| Woolworth                       | 14.00 | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00 |
| Debenhams                       | 13.00 | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00 |
| <b>ENGINEERING</b>              |       |        |      |          |       |       |
| BMW                             | 15.00 | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00 |
| Vauxhall                        | 14.00 | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00 |
| Ford                            | 13.00 | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00 |
| <b>INSURANCE</b>                |       |        |      |          |       |       |
| Aviva                           | 15.00 | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00 |
| Prudential                      | 14.00 | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00 |
| Legal & General                 | 13.00 | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00 |
| <b>CHEMICALS</b>                |       |        |      |          |       |       |
| Roche                           | 11.00 | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 11.00 |
| Novartis                        | 10.00 | +0.01  | +0.1 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 10.00 |
| Glaxo                           | 9.00  | +0.01  | +0.1 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 9.00  |
| <b>DISTRIBUTORS</b>             |       |        |      |          |       |       |
| Debenhams                       | 13.00 | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00 |
| Woolworth                       | 14.00 | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00 |
| Arcon                           | 15.00 | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00 |



**Light on costs; heavy on services.**  
Lighter priced electricity from SWALEC could cut your company's bills by 50%. Your Business Account Manager will fine tune our service to suit your needs and our very flexible contracts, methods of billing and payments will suit you down to the ground. Just some of the reasons why enlightened companies are switching to SWALEC.



| Company   | Price | Change | %    | Dividend | Yield | P/E   |
|---|-------|--------|------|----------|-------|-------|
| <b>SHORTS (under 5 years)</b>                       |       |        |      |          |       |       |
| Aviva   | 15.00 | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00 |
| Prudential  | 14.00 | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00 |
| Legal & General                                     | 13.00 | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00 |
| <b>LONGS (over 15 years)</b>                        |       |        |      |          |       |       |
| Aviva   | 15.00 | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00 |
| Prudential  | 14.00 | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00 |
| Legal & General                                     | 13.00 | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00 |
| <b>UNDATED</b>                                      |       |        |      |          |       |       |
| Aviva   | 15.00 | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00 |
| Prudential  | 14.00 | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00 |
| Legal & General                                     | 13.00 | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00 |
| <b>MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)</b>                      |       |        |      |          |       |       |
| Aviva   | 15.00 | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00 |
| Prudential  | 14.00 | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00 |
| Legal & General                                     | 13.00 | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00 |
| <b>INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation at 10%)</b> |       |        |      |          |       |       |
| Aviva   | 15.00 | +0.10  | +0.7 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 15.00 |
| Prudential  | 14.00 | +0.05  | +0.4 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 14.00 |
| Legal & General                                     | 13.00 | +0.02  | +0.2 | 0.00     | 0.00  | 13.00 |

| 1994/95                | Low Company | Price | Div   | %     | P/E    | 1994/95 | Low Company | Price | Div   | %      | P/E    |
|------------------------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|---------|-------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| 69%                    | 37          | 100   | 1.00  | 1.00  | 10.00  | 100%    | 100         | 1.00  | 1.00  | 10.00  | 10.00  |
| 70%                    | 38          | 110   | 1.10  | 1.10  | 11.00  | 110%    | 110         | 1.10  | 1.10  | 11.00  | 11.00  |
| 71%                    | 39          | 120   | 1.20  | 1.20  | 12.00  | 120%    | 120         | 1.20  | 1.20  | 12.00  | 12.00  |
| 72%                    | 40          | 130   | 1.30  | 1.30  | 13.00  | 130%    | 130         | 1.30  | 1.30  | 13.00  | 13.00  |
| 73%                    | 41          | 140   | 1.40  | 1.40  | 14.00  | 140%    | 140         | 1.40  | 1.40  | 14.00  | 14.00  |
| 74%                    | 42          | 150   | 1.50  | 1.50  | 15.00  | 150%    | 150         | 1.50  | 1.50  | 15.00  | 15.00  |
| 75%                    | 43          | 160   | 1.60  | 1.60  | 16.00  | 160%    | 160         | 1.60  | 1.60  | 16.00  | 16.00  |
| 76%                    | 44          | 170   | 1.70  | 1.70  | 17.00  | 170%    | 170         | 1.70  | 1.70  | 17.00  | 17.00  |
| 77%                    | 45          | 180   | 1.80  | 1.80  | 18.00  | 180%    | 180         | 1.80  | 1.80  | 18.00  | 18.00  |
| 78%                    | 46          | 190   | 1.90  | 1.90  | 19.00  | 190%    | 190         | 1.90  | 1.90  | 19.00  | 19.00  |
| 79%                    | 47          | 200   | 2.00  | 2.00  | 20.00  | 200%    | 200         | 2.00  | 2.00  | 20.00  | 20.00  |
| 80%                    | 48          | 210   | 2.10  | 2.10  | 21.00  | 210%    | 210         | 2.10  | 2.10  | 21.00  | 21.00  |
| 81%                    | 49          | 220   | 2.20  | 2.20  | 22.00  | 220%    | 220         | 2.20  | 2.20  | 22.00  | 22.00  |
| 82%                    | 50          | 230   | 2.30  | 2.30  | 23.00  | 230%    | 230         | 2.30  | 2.30  | 23.00  | 23.00  |
| 83%                    | 51          | 240   | 2.40  | 2.40  | 24.00  | 240%    | 240         | 2.40  | 2.40  | 24.00  | 24.00  |
| 84%                    | 52          | 250   | 2.50  | 2.50  | 25.00  | 250%    | 250         | 2.50  | 2.50  | 25.00  | 25.00  |
| 85%                    | 53          | 260   | 2.60  | 2.60  | 26.00  | 260%    | 260         | 2.60  | 2.60  | 26.00  | 26.00  |
| 86%                    | 54          | 270   | 2.70  | 2.70  | 27.00  | 270%    | 270         | 2.70  | 2.70  | 27.00  | 27.00  |
| 87%                    | 55          | 280   | 2.80  | 2.80  | 28.00  | 280%    | 280         | 2.80  | 2.80  | 28.00  | 28.00  |
| 88%                    | 56          | 290   | 2.90  | 2.90  | 29.00  | 290%    | 290         | 2.90  | 2.90  | 29.00  | 29.00  |
| 89%                    | 57          | 300   | 3.00  | 3.00  | 30.00  | 300%    | 300         | 3.00  | 3.00  | 30.00  | 30.00  |
| 90%                    | 58          | 310   | 3.10  | 3.10  | 31.00  | 310%    | 310         | 3.10  | 3.10  | 31.00  | 31.00  |
| 91%                    | 59          | 320   | 3.20  | 3.20  | 32.00  | 320%    | 320         | 3.20  | 3.20  | 32.00  | 32.00  |
| 92%                    | 60          | 330   | 3.30  | 3.30  | 33.00  | 330%    | 330         | 3.30  | 3.30  | 33.00  | 33.00  |
| 93%                    | 61          | 340   | 3.40  | 3.40  | 34.00  | 340%    | 340         | 3.40  | 3.40  | 34.00  | 34.00  |
| 94%                    | 62          | 350   | 3.50  | 3.50  | 35.00  | 350%    | 350         | 3.50  | 3.50  | 35.00  | 35.00  |
| 95%                    | 63          | 360   | 3.60  | 3.60  | 36.00  | 360%    | 360         | 3.60  | 3.60  | 36.00  | 36.00  |
| 96%                    | 64          | 370   | 3.70  | 3.70  | 37.00  | 370%    | 370         | 3.70  | 3.70  | 37.00  | 37.00  |
| 97%                    | 65          | 380   | 3.80  | 3.80  | 38.00  | 380%    | 380         | 3.80  | 3.80  | 38.00  | 38.00  |
| 98%                    | 66          | 390   | 3.90  | 3.90  | 39.00  | 390%    | 390         | 3.90  | 3.90  | 39.00  | 39.00  |
| 99%                    | 67          | 400   | 4.00  | 4.00  | 40.00  | 400%    | 400         | 4.00  | 4.00  | 40.00  | 40.00  |
| 100%                   | 68          | 410   | 4.10  | 4.10  | 41.00  | 410%    | 410         | 4.10  | 4.10  | 41.00  | 41.00  |
| <b>PHARMACEUTICALS</b> |             |       |       |       |        |         |             |       |       |        |        |
| 101%                   | 69          | 420   | 4.20  | 4.20  | 42.00  | 420%    | 420         | 4.20  | 4.20  | 42.00  | 42.00  |
| 102%                   | 70          | 430   | 4.30  | 4.30  | 43.00  | 430%    | 430         | 4.30  | 4.30  | 43.00  | 43.00  |
| 103%                   | 71          | 440   | 4.40  | 4.40  | 44.00  | 440%    | 440         | 4.40  | 4.40  | 44.00  | 44.00  |
| 104%                   | 72          | 450   | 4.50  | 4.50  | 45.00  | 450%    | 450         | 4.50  | 4.50  | 45.00  | 45.00  |
| 105%                   | 73          | 460   | 4.60  | 4.60  | 46.00  | 460%    | 460         | 4.60  | 4.60  | 46.00  | 46.00  |
| 106%                   | 74          | 470   | 4.70  | 4.70  | 47.00  | 470%    | 470         | 4.70  | 4.70  | 47.00  | 47.00  |
| 107%                   | 75          | 480   | 4.80  | 4.80  | 48.00  | 480%    | 480         | 4.80  | 4.80  | 48.00  | 48.00  |
| 108%                   | 76          | 490   | 4.90  | 4.90  | 49.00  | 490%    | 490         | 4.90  | 4.90  | 49.00  | 49.00  |
| 109%                   | 77          | 500   | 5.00  | 5.00  | 50.00  | 500%    | 500         | 5.00  | 5.00  | 50.00  | 50.00  |
| 110%                   | 78          | 510   | 5.10  | 5.10  | 51.00  | 510%    | 510         | 5.10  | 5.10  | 51.00  | 51.00  |
| 111%                   | 79          | 520   | 5.20  | 5.20  | 52.00  | 520%    | 520         | 5.20  | 5.20  | 52.00  | 52.00  |
| 112%                   | 80          | 530   | 5.30  | 5.30  | 53.00  | 530%    | 530         | 5.30  | 5.30  | 53.00  | 53.00  |
| 113%                   | 81          | 540   | 5.40  | 5.40  | 54.00  | 540%    | 540         | 5.40  | 5.40  | 54.00  | 54.00  |
| 114%                   | 82          | 550   | 5.50  | 5.50  | 55.00  | 550%    | 550         | 5.50  | 5.50  | 55.00  | 55.00  |
| 115%                   | 83          | 560   | 5.60  | 5.60  | 56.00  | 560%    | 560         | 5.60  | 5.60  | 56.00  | 56.00  |
| 116%                   | 84          | 570   | 5.70  | 5.70  | 57.00  | 570%    | 570         | 5.70  | 5.70  | 57.00  | 57.00  |
| 117%                   | 85          | 580   | 5.80  | 5.80  | 58.00  | 580%    | 580         | 5.80  | 5.80  | 58.00  | 58.00  |
| 118%                   | 86          | 590   | 5.90  | 5.90  | 59.00  | 590%    | 590         | 5.90  | 5.90  | 59.00  | 59.00  |
| 119%                   | 87          | 600   | 6.00  | 6.00  | 60.00  | 600%    | 600         | 6.00  | 6.00  | 60.00  | 60.00  |
| 120%                   | 88          | 610   | 6.10  | 6.10  | 61.00  | 610%    | 610         | 6.10  | 6.10  | 61.00  | 61.00  |
| 121%                   | 89          | 620   | 6.20  | 6.20  | 62.00  | 620%    | 620         | 6.20  | 6.20  | 62.00  | 62.00  |
| 122%                   | 90          | 630   | 6.30  | 6.30  | 63.00  | 630%    | 630         | 6.30  | 6.30  | 63.00  | 63.00  |
| 123%                   | 91          | 640   | 6.40  | 6.40  | 64.00  | 640%    | 640         | 6.40  | 6.40  | 64.00  | 64.00  |
| 124%                   | 92          | 650   | 6.50  | 6.50  | 65.00  | 650%    | 650         | 6.50  | 6.50  | 65.00  | 65.00  |
| 125%                   | 93          | 660   | 6.60  | 6.60  | 66.00  | 660%    | 660         | 6.60  | 6.60  | 66.00  | 66.00  |
| 126%                   | 94          | 670   | 6.70  | 6.70  | 67.00  | 670%    | 670         | 6.70  | 6.70  | 67.00  | 67.00  |
| 127%                   | 95          | 680   | 6.80  | 6.80  | 68.00  | 680%    | 680         | 6.80  | 6.80  | 68.00  | 68.00  |
| 128%                   | 96          | 690   | 6.90  | 6.90  | 69.00  | 690%    | 690         | 6.90  | 6.90  | 69.00  | 69.00  |
| 129%                   | 97          | 700   | 7.00  | 7.00  | 70.00  | 700%    | 700         | 7.00  | 7.00  | 70.00  | 70.00  |
| 130%                   | 98          | 710   | 7.10  | 7.10  | 71.00  | 710%    | 710         | 7.10  | 7.10  | 71.00  | 71.00  |
| 131%                   | 99          | 720   | 7.20  | 7.20  | 72.00  | 720%    | 720         | 7.20  | 7.20  | 72.00  | 72.00  |
| 132%                   | 100         | 730   | 7.30  | 7.30  | 73.00  | 730%    | 730         | 7.30  | 7.30  | 73.00  | 73.00  |
| 133%                   | 101         | 740   | 7.40  | 7.40  | 74.00  | 740%    | 740         | 7.40  | 7.40  | 74.00  | 74.00  |
| 134%                   | 102         | 750   | 7.50  | 7.50  | 75.00  | 750%    | 750         | 7.50  | 7.50  | 75.00  | 75.00  |
| 135%                   | 103         | 760   | 7.60  | 7.60  | 76.00  | 760%    | 760         | 7.60  | 7.60  | 76.00  | 76.00  |
| 136%                   | 104         | 770   | 7.70  | 7.70  | 77.00  | 770%    | 770         | 7.70  | 7.70  | 77.00  | 77.00  |
| 137%                   | 105         | 780   | 7.80  | 7.80  | 78.00  | 780%    | 780         | 7.80  | 7.80  | 78.00  | 78.00  |
| 138%                   | 106         | 790   | 7.90  | 7.90  | 79.00  | 790%    | 790         | 7.90  | 7.90  | 79.00  | 79.00  |
| 139%                   | 107         | 800   | 8.00  | 8.00  | 80.00  | 800%    | 800         | 8.00  | 8.00  | 80.00  | 80.00  |
| 140%                   | 108         | 810   | 8.10  | 8.10  | 81.00  | 810%    | 810         | 8.10  | 8.10  | 81.00  | 81.00  |
| 141%                   | 109         | 820   | 8.20  | 8.20  | 82.00  | 820%    | 820         | 8.20  | 8.20  | 82.00  | 82.00  |
| 142%                   | 110         | 830   | 8.30  | 8.30  | 83.00  | 830%    | 830         | 8.30  | 8.30  | 83.00  | 83.00  |
| 143%                   | 111         | 840   | 8.40  | 8.40  | 84.00  | 840%    | 840         | 8.40  | 8.40  | 84.00  | 84.00  |
| 144%                   | 112         | 850   | 8.50  | 8.50  | 85.00  | 850%    | 850         | 8.50  | 8.50  | 85.00  | 85.00  |
| 145%                   | 113         | 860   | 8.60  | 8.60  | 86.00  | 860%    | 860         | 8.60  | 8.60  | 86.00  | 86.00  |
| 146%                   | 114         | 870   | 8.70  | 8.70  | 87.00  | 870%    | 870         | 8.70  | 8.70  | 87.00  | 87.00  |
| 147%                   | 115         | 880   | 8.80  | 8.80  | 88.00  | 880%    | 880         | 8.80  | 8.80  | 88.00  | 88.00  |
| 148%                   | 116         | 890   | 8.90  | 8.90  | 89.00  | 890%    | 890         | 8.90  | 8.90  | 89.00  | 89.00  |
| 149%                   | 117         | 900   | 9.00  | 9.00  | 90.00  | 900%    | 900         | 9.00  | 9.00  | 90.00  | 90.00  |
| 150%                   | 118         | 910   | 9.10  | 9.10  | 91.00  | 910%    | 910         | 9.10  | 9.10  | 91.00  | 91.00  |
| 151%                   | 119         | 920   | 9.20  | 9.20  | 92.00  | 920%    | 920         | 9.20  | 9.20  | 92.00  | 92.00  |
| 152%                   | 120         | 930   | 9.30  | 9.30  | 93.00  | 930%    | 930         | 9.30  | 9.30  | 93.00  | 93.00  |
| 153%                   | 121         | 940   | 9.40  | 9.40  | 94.00  | 940%    | 940         | 9.40  | 9.40  | 94.00  | 94.00  |
| 154%                   | 122         | 950   | 9.50  | 9.50  | 95.00  | 950%    | 950         | 9.50  | 9.50  | 95.00  | 95.00  |
| 155%                   | 123         | 960   | 9.60  | 9.60  | 96.00  | 960%    | 960         | 9.60  | 9.60  | 96.00  | 96.00  |
| 156%                   | 124         | 970   | 9.70  | 9.70  | 97.00  | 970%    | 970         | 9.70  | 9.70  | 97.00  | 97.00  |
| 157%                   | 125         | 980   | 9.80  | 9.80  | 98.00  | 980%    | 980         | 9.80  | 9.80  | 98.00  | 98.00  |
| 158%                   | 126         | 990   | 9.90  | 9.90  | 99.00  | 990%    | 990         | 9.90  | 9.90  | 99.00  | 99.00  |
| 159%                   | 127         | 1000  | 10.00 | 10.00 | 100.00 | 1000%   | 1000        | 10.00 | 10.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 160%                   | 128         | 1010  | 10.10 | 10.10 | 101.00 | 1010%   | 1010        | 10.10 | 10.10 | 101.00 | 101.00 |
| 161%                   | 129         | 1020  | 10.20 | 10.20 | 102.00 | 1020%   | 1020        | 10.20 | 10.20 | 102.00 | 102.00 |
| 162%                   | 130         | 1030  | 10.30 | 10.30 | 103.00 | 1030%   | 1030        | 10.30 | 10.30 | 103.00 | 103.00 |
| 163%                   | 131         | 1040  | 10.40 | 10.40 | 104.00 | 1040%   | 1040        | 10.40 | 10.40 | 104.00 | 104.00 |
| 164%                   | 132         | 1050  | 10.50 | 10.50 | 105.00 | 1050%   | 1050        | 10.50 | 10.50 | 105.00 | 105.00 |
| 165%                   | 133         | 1060  | 10.60 | 10.60 | 106.00 | 1060%   | 1060        | 10.60 | 10.60 | 106.00 | 106.00 |
| 166%                   | 134         | 1070  | 10.70 | 10.70 | 107.00 | 1070%   | 1070        | 10.70 | 10.70 | 107.00 | 107.00 |
| 167%                   | 135         | 1080  | 10.80 | 10.80 | 108.00 | 1080%   | 1080        | 10.80 | 10.80 | 108.00 | 108.00 |
| 168%                   | 136         | 1090  | 10.90 | 10.90 | 109.00 | 1090%   | 1090        | 10.90 | 10.90 | 109.00 | 109.00 |
| 169%                   | 137         | 1100  | 11.00 | 11.00 | 110.00 | 1100%   | 1100        | 11.00 | 11.00 | 110.00 | 110.00 |
| 170%                   | 138         | 1110  | 11.10 | 11.10 | 111.00 | 1110%   | 1110        | 11.10 | 11.10 | 111.00 | 111.00 |
| 171%                   | 139         | 1120  | 11.20 | 11.20 | 112.00 | 1120%   | 1120        | 11.20 | 11.20 | 112.00 | 112.00 |
| 172%                   | 140         | 1130  | 11.30 | 11.30 | 113.00 | 1130%   | 1130        | 11.30 | 11.30 | 113.00 | 113.00 |
| 173%                   | 141         | 1140  | 11.40 | 11.40 | 114.00 | 1140%   | 1140        | 11.40 | 11.40 | 114.00 | 114.00 |
| 174%                   | 142         | 1150  | 11.50 | 11.50 | 115.00 | 1150%   | 1150        | 11.50 | 11.50 | 115.00 | 115.00 |
| 175%                   | 143         | 1160  | 11.60 | 11.60 | 116.00 | 1160%   | 1160        | 11.60 | 11.60 | 116.00 | 116.00 |
| 176%                   | 144         | 1170  | 11.70 | 11.70 | 117.00 | 1170%   | 1170        | 11.70 | 11.70 | 117.00 | 117.00 |
| 177%                   | 145         | 1180  | 11.80 | 11.80 | 118.00 | 1180%   | 1180        | 11.80 | 11.80 | 118.00 | 118.00 |
| 178%                   | 146         | 1190  | 11.90 | 11.90 | 119.00 | 1190%   | 1190        | 11.90 | 11.90 | 119.00 | 119.00 |
| 179%                   | 147         | 1200  | 12.00 | 12.00 | 120.00 | 1200%</ |             |       |       |        |        |







## PRIVATE HEALTHCARE

FOCUS

Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent, introduces a four-page report on the state of the medical insurance market

### Symptoms good, but when's the recovery?

Private medicine is in the doldrums. The number of people covered by health insurance has hardly changed for six years and there is still no sign of an upward turn. All the conditions are right, yet no one wants to buy.

In the early 1990s, analysts blamed the recession, rising unemployment and falling confidence. Yet now that recession has ended, unemployment is falling and confidence rising, and people have more money in their pockets, still the market refuses to budge.

William Laing, of Laing & Buisson, an independent private healthcare consultancy, says: "It may be like house prices. People have been expecting them to move for years and they haven't. At some point, all the factors crystallise, and the market takes off."

One factor holding back the expansion of private medicine is the improved performance of the NHS. It is treating more patients and performing more procedures than ever, and long waiting times — a key incentive for going private — have gone down dramatically.

Over the past ten years, NHS surgical admissions have been growing at an average of 2.9 per cent a year, reaching 4,991,000 in 1995-96, mostly for elective (non-urgent) operations.

The result is that private surgery probably still accounts for no more than 13 per cent of all surgery (NHS and private) as recorded in a survey in 1992-93, according to *Healthcare Market News*, published by Laing & Buisson. It says that the latest statistics show "the remarkable resilience" of NHS elective surgery rates, even for supposedly cosmetic

interventions such as varicose vein stripping.

The NHS is also beating the private sector at its own game. Since 1988, its share of the private market has grown by a half, from 11 per cent to 16.5 per cent, making it the largest private provider of hospital care in the country. In 1995 the NHS earned £225 million from private work, just ahead of the £223 million earned by Bupa, its nearest rival, according to the *Fitzhugh Directory of Independent Healthcare 1996-97*.

William Fitzhugh, the publisher, says: "This is a remarkable situation to have occurred. A state provider becomes market leader in a commercial market in 1996."

Occupancy rates in some hospitals are low. Casualties look inevitable

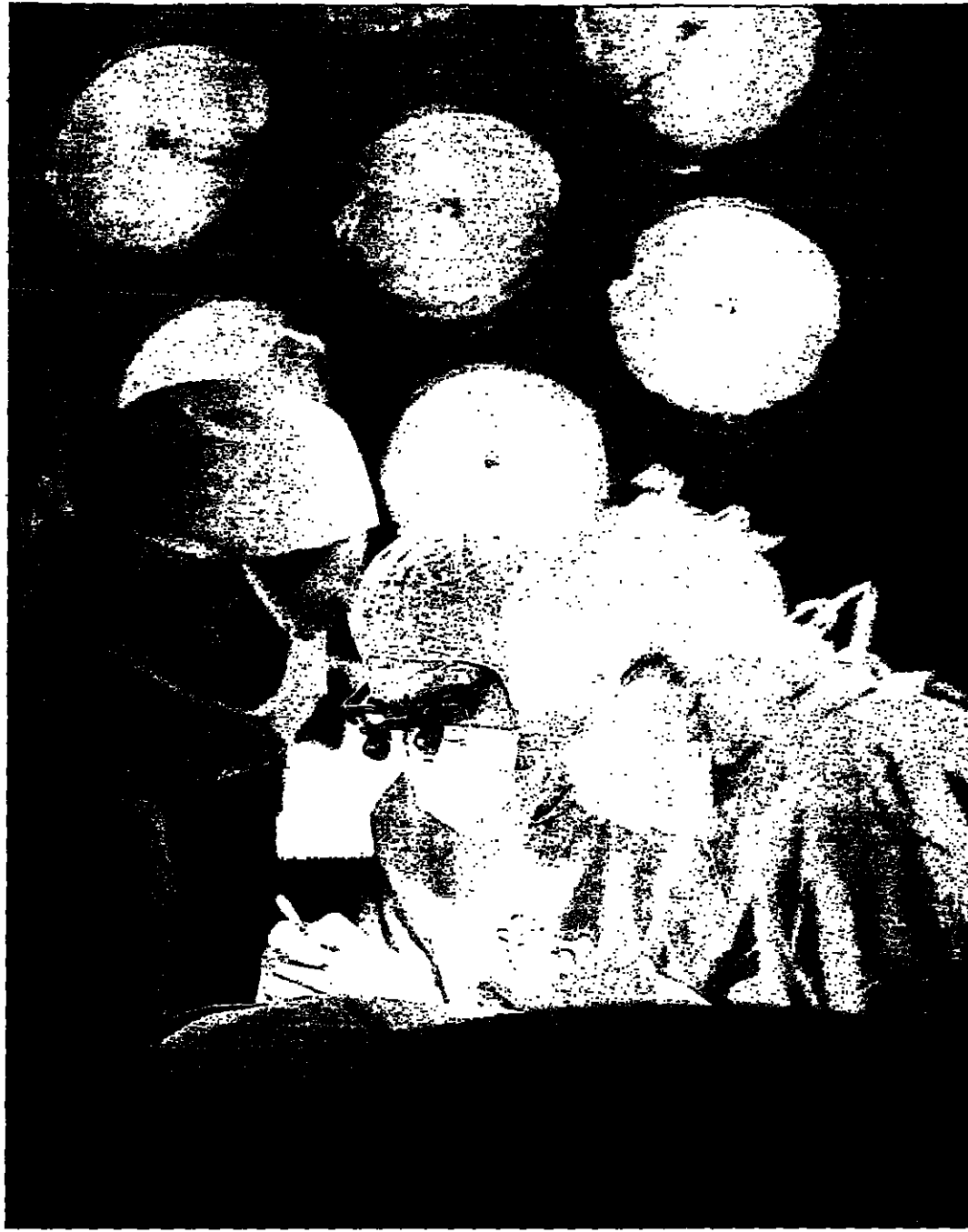
The expansion of private work in NHS hospitals has been at the expense of the leading private groups. After ten years of growth, the total number of private beds declined last year for the first time, to 11,098. Occupancy rates in some hospitals are low. Mr Fitzhugh says: "Casualties look inevitable."

Now the private insurers have begun to fight back by directing patients to their own hospitals or those where they can secure hefty discounts on the daily room rate.

Last year Bupa announced a policy which excludes patients from treatment in NHS pay beds. The move was aimed to raise occupancy in its own 29 hospitals and those of other private operators, which have lost market share to the NHS.

PPP Healthcare is about to introduce a similar plan with a shorter list of approved hospitals to be identified locally.

Mr Laing says: "In the past insurers have not dared to direct



Under the knife: strong competition is hitting specialists who once ruled the roost in private care

patients to particular hospitals. Now they are doing so. Their clear objective is to steer as many patients as they can to their preferred hospitals, which is bound to lead to closures of those not favoured."

The NHS is already feeling the impact; at least one trust is reconsidering a plan to build a private wing because of the threat of increased competition.

Caught in the middle are the specialists who have traditionally called the shots in private medicine

but are now feeling the pressure. Mr Laing says: "They feel backed into a corner by powerful insurers wanting to direct patients to particular hospitals and by GP fundholders."

Some specialists are talking of setting up in chambers, like barristers, joining together to increase their bargaining power.

The major uncertainty in the coming months is the prospect of a change of government. Though

Labour is committed to ending tax relief on private medical insurance for those over 65, the concession has made little difference to the market anyway.

And though Labour is no longer pledged to phasing out NHS paybeds, private hospitals may take comfort from the fact that there would be less encouragement for NHS trusts to develop them.

But even this silver lining has a cloud. Under Labour, NHS trusts would also be less likely to agree contracts with private hospitals.

### NHS trusts may launch own paybed schemes

Although there has been little net growth in the private healthcare market since the NHS reforms of the 1980s, one sector has flourished. The largest provider of private hospital services is, surprisingly, the NHS itself. *David Loshak writes.*

There are about 3,000 NHS paybeds in all, but of these, 1,700 are in ordinary NHS wards with no identified beds or treatment areas for private patients and an occupancy rate of only 10 per cent. However, there are 1,400 beds in about 80 dedicated up-to-date NHS trust hospital paybed units, a powerful competitive force.

Collectively, they account for a sixth of the market. The NHS share of private patient business has risen by half as much again since 1988 to 16.5 per cent and its take has doubled since 1991 from £113 million to more than £225 million — a compound annual growth rate of 17 per cent compared with only 7 per cent for the independent sector.

According to the healthcare analyst William Fitzhugh, in his *Directory of NHS Trusts*, three in four of the 496 NHS Trusts are making money from private patients. However, he questions the involvement of trusts in allocating resources to what can be no better than a "peripheral activity" without carefully evaluating the demand.

"Paybeds are springing up as if there is no tomorrow," says Bupa's medical director, Andrew Vallance-Owen. He questions the wisdom of opening new private beds in a shrinking market where there is only 50 per cent occupancy of private-sector beds overall.

The health consultant William Laing says any further growth in NHS private patient expenditure seems bound to be at the independent sector's expense. Moreover, NHS trusts are now considering competing on another front by launching their own insurance policies. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, has said that this

is not part of "normal" NHS work, but that has not stopped them.

In discussions with the London actuaries Universal Health Consultants, four potential insurance schemes have been suggested. These include private healthcare clubs with fast-track treatment for members, cash clubs that offer small sums to claimants when treatment requires time off work, complementary healthcare plans that provide private treatment for conditions the NHS no longer covers and policies to cover care in paybed units with NHS back-up in case of complications.

The chief benefits that trust hospitals can offer in their dedicated units are single rooms with en-suite facilities and their own catering, just as in the most modern private hospitals. The main advantages claimed for NHS paybeds are the safety of having the facilities and staff to deal with any emergencies.

Private treatment in the NHS can permit savings on subscribers' premiums of 25 per cent because of economies of scale, says David Cavers, managing director of Norwich Union Healthcare. He adds that it generates enough income to pay for elective surgery for 20,000 patients. Other industry leaders, however, are strongly critical of NHS private units, largely on the ground that trusts report only their income, not their costs, such as nursing and support staff.

Barry Hassell, the chief executive of the Independent Health Association, says: "Until they publish fully audited accounts, we will not know whether they are making a profit or not."

He doubts that it is appropriate for the trusts to divert tax-funded resources from core NHS activity when NHS treatments are increasingly being "rationed". In the absence of better public information, he argues, it must be assumed that treatment in NHS paybeds is subsidised by the taxpayer.

Trust plans include private healthcare clubs with fast-track treatment

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# Why prevention is better than a costly cure

If you value your work force, you value its health. This is the message firms ignore at their peril in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

It is estimated that 360 million working days are lost each year through sickness absence, at a cost of £13 billion. Over the past decade we have seen a rapid development of a whole range of healthcare services from insurance companies such as Bupa, FFP, Guardian Health, Legal & General and Norwich Union in response to the concern from large employers.

For an organisation with a £100 million wage bill, the cost of healthcare, including medical insurance and sickness absence, can amount to £5-6 million. Employers are realising that there are savings to be made by organising key performance indicators in these areas.

**Ros Drinkwater reports on how industry has realised it has a vested interest in employees' health**

The concept of corporate healthcare was pioneered in 1950 for employees of the BBC. Today, of the 6.5 million Britons covered by private medical insurance, 50 per cent of the cost of the premiums is paid by companies and 25 per cent is paid by individuals at a group rate through their employer.

A recent MORI poll showed that seven out of ten companies are spending more on healthcare for employees, and 38 per cent of those have changed their policies to cover more employees and to provide more extensive health screening.

It makes sense. Heart disease is a major killer and an

annual check is one of the best means of diagnosing likely victims. Two of the most prevalent forms of cancer in women — breast and cervical — can be successfully treated if detected early enough. The benefits of private medical cover come increasingly to the fore in markets where labour is tight in terms of holding on to skilled staff.

Typical of the products on offer is market leader Bupa's Business Solutions, a portfolio of healthcare packages for large, medium, and small companies.

According to the CBI, the major indicators of stress in any organisation include high staff turnover, personal con-

licts, heavy smoking, and alcohol and drug abuse. Bupa's Stress Audit is designed to identify the major sources of pressure at work and their effect on employees, while their Health Audit caters for companies with an interest in who in their work force actually requires health attention.

Honeywell and Hewlett-Packard, the computer hardware manufacturers, are among the first companies to receive analysed results of their health audit. The results showed that, in both cases, the majority of employees were in good health, but there were areas that were targeted for improvement.

At Honeywell, a number of employees were found to be overweight, while at Hewlett-Packard, alcohol, lack of exercise and smoking gave cause for concern.

"We cannot interfere in the way individuals run their lives," said Melanie Gilbey of Hewlett-Packard, "but we can raise awareness and provide facilities to improve fitness. While the company would not dispose of its smoking rooms or ban drinking, we might run specific anti-drug and alcohol-related campaigns."

Complementary therapies are being included in corporate private health insurance schemes as we move towards the concept of paying a doctor to keep us fit rather than only resorting to medical advice when we are sick. Increasingly, osteopaths are



A fitness assessment during a Bupa health screening. Some are financed by companies to check the health of staff

targeting their services at the business sector, with Osteopaths For Industry being typical of recent initiatives. Set up by Janice Kaye, a graduate of the British College of Naturopathy and Osteopathy, it offers

a twofold service: training for employees and how to implement EU directives relating to the use of VDUs. The emphasis is on preventive action, and osteopathic clinics are being set up within companies.

Organisations as diverse as Claridge's hotel, the London Borough of Ealing, Merrill Lynch, the BBC and ITN have found such schemes to be of benefit, with 90 per cent of patients claiming to have been

cured or improved by osteopathic treatment. It is in the preventive field that private healthcare is proving to be of value in the workplace, so benefiting employees and employers.

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## When the dentist is a friend, not foe

We have come a long way since the 1930s when in Britain's poorer communities a prized birthday present for older people was the gift of the cost of having all one's teeth extracted, Ros Drinkwater writes.

Yet after 50 years of NHS dentistry, says the British Dental Association, only half of the population is registered with a dentist. 44 per cent suffer from dental decay: every year four tons of decayed teeth are removed from children alone, and one in three people claims it is difficult to find an NHS dentist. According to a Harris poll published this month, six out of ten MPs from all political parties believe that there is a shortage of NHS dentists in their constituency.

To date, half-a-million patients have opted for the alternative of a private dental healthcare plan. Capitation schemes are, in effect, pre-payment plans, whereby patients are covered for an individual continuing-care contract to cover routine dental care, emergency treatment, and in some cases, major dentistry such as crowns, bridges and dentures. Unlike treatment-orientated NHS practices, dentists are rewarded for the prevention of disease, rather than individual items of treatment.

Chris Lewis, whose Mid-Glamorgan practice was founded by his great grandfather in 1897, is an advocate of such schemes. "My father took the practice into the NHS with enormous enthusiasm, but the wheel came full circle in 1993 when I decided to return to private practice and joined Denplan Care," he says.

"For the patient, costs are spread over a period of time. For the practice, new financial security will finance equipment changes that would have been shelved for years under the NHS. Even more important, capitation encourages both public and professionals to think in terms of preventive dentistry. In any modern civilised society tooth decay and the resulting pain should not be regarded as inevitable."

Benefits and costs vary. Denplan Care, owned by PPP, and Bupa Dental Cover offer similar, one-tier schemes at comparable cost. Ninety per cent of Denplan members pay between £5 and £15 a month, with benefits including preventive treatment and advice, hygienist care, amalgam or white fillings as necessary, GP periodontal and surgical treatment, worldwide insurance, accident and emergency treatment cover, Hospital Cash (£50 per overnight stay) and a 24-hour helpline. Bupa Dental Cover members pay an average of £9 to £14 per month to meet the cost of all routine and major restorative dental work, oral cancer screening and cover (up to £10,000) if oral cancer is diagnosed.

Multiple-tier schemes include CDC's two-tier Cost Care with the choice between a basic capitation plan, NHS, involving a refund of NHS charges, and Norwich Union's

### What do the private dental healthcare plans offer?

Dental Care, a four-tier plan with costs (averaging £6 to £12 per month) determined by benefits according to the tier. For those patients happy to meet small, regular dental bills, such as check-ups, but who want to insure against major treatment, Prime Health offers a policy costing

as little as £3 per month, and next week sees the launch of Guardian Health's Dental Cover, an insurance-based product aimed at the corporate market under which members may claim back the cost of typical and reasonable dentist's fees.

The feedback from patients using capitation schemes is positive. The most commonly cited advantages are peace of mind, insurance against the unforeseen, more time spent with the dentist and a wider choice of materials, techniques and treatment than those available under the NHS.



Private care allows you more time with your dentist

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William Fitzhugh, the publisher, says: "This is a remarkable situation to have occurred. A state provider becomes market leader in a commercial market in 1996."

Occupancy rates in some hospitals are low. Casualties look inevitable

The expansion of private work in NHS hospitals has been at the expense of the leading private groups. After ten years of growth, the total number of private beds declined last year for the first time, to 11,098. Occupancy rates in some hospitals are low. Mr Fitzhugh says: "Casualties look inevitable."

Now the private insurers have begun to fight back by directing patients to their own hospitals or those where they can secure hefty discounts on the daily room rate.

Last year Bupa announced a policy which excludes patients from treatment in NHS pay beds. The move was aimed to raise occupancy in its own 29 hospitals and those of other private operators, which have lost market share to the NHS.

PPP Healthcare is about to introduce a similar plan with a shorter list of approved hospitals to be identified locally.

Mr Laing says: "In the past insurers have not dared to direct



Under the knife: strong competition is hitting specialists who once ruled the roost in private care

patients to particular hospitals. Now they are doing so. Their clear objective is to steer as many patients as they can to their preferred hospitals, which is bound to lead to closures of those not favoured."

The NHS is already feeling the impact; at least one trust is reconsidering a plan to build a private wing because of the threat of increased competition.

Caught in the middle are the specialists who have traditionally called the shots in private medicine

but are now feeling the pressure. Mr Laing says: "They feel backed into a corner by powerful insurers wanting to direct patients to particular hospitals and by GP fundholders."

Some specialists are talking of setting up in chambers, like barristers, joining together to increase their bargaining power.

The major uncertainty in the coming months is the prospect of a change of government. Though

Labour is committed to ending tax relief on private medical insurance for those over 65, the concession has made little difference to the market anyway.

And though Labour is no longer pledged to phasing out NHS paybeds, private hospitals may take comfort from the fact that there would be less encouragement for NHS trusts to develop them.

But even this silver lining has a cloud. Under Labour, NHS trusts would also be less likely to agree contracts with private hospitals.

### NHS trusts may launch own paybed schemes

Although there has been little net growth in the private healthcare market since the NHS reforms of the 1980s, one sector has flourished. The largest provider of private hospital services is, surprisingly, the NHS itself. *David Loshak writes.*

There are about 3,000 NHS paybeds in all, but of these, 1,700 are in ordinary NHS wards with no identified beds or treatment areas for private patients and an occupancy rate of only 10 per cent. However, there are 1,400 beds in about 80 dedicated up-to-date NHS trust hospital paybed units, a powerful competitive force.

Collectively, they account for a sixth of the market. The NHS share of private patient business has risen by half as much again since 1988 to 16.5 per cent and its take has doubled since 1991 from £113 million to more than £225 million — a compound annual growth rate of 17 per cent compared with only 7 per cent for the independent sector.

According to the healthcare ana-

Trust plans include private healthcare clubs with fast-track treatment

lyst William Fitzhugh, in his *Directory of NHS Trusts*, three in four of the 496 NHS Trusts are making money from private patients. However, he questions the involvement of trusts in allocating resources to what can be no better than a "peripheral activity" without carefully evaluating the demand.

Paybeds are springing up as if there is no tomorrow, says Bupa's medical director, Andrew Vallance-Owen. He questions the wisdom of opening new private beds in a shrinking market where there is only 50 per cent occupancy of private-sector beds overall.

The health consultant William Laing says any further growth in NHS private patient expenditure seems bound to be at the independent sector's expense. Moreover, NHS trusts are now considering competing on another front by launching their own insurance policies. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, has said that this

is not part of "normal" NHS work, but that has not stopped them.

In discussions with the London actuaries Universal Health Consultants, four potential insurance schemes have been suggested. These include private healthcare clubs with fast-track treatment for members, cash clubs that offer small sums to claimants when treatment requires time off work, complementary healthcare plans that provide private treatment for conditions the NHS no longer covers and policies to cover care in paybed units with NHS back-up in case of complications.

The chief benefits that trust hospitals can offer in their dedicated units are single rooms with en-suite facilities and their own catering, just as in the most modern private hospitals. The main advantages claimed for NHS paybeds are the safety of having the facilities and staff to deal with any emergencies.

Private treatment in the NHS can permit savings on subscribers' premiums of 25 per cent because of economies of scale, says David Cavers, managing director of Norwich Union Healthcare. He adds that it generates enough income to pay for elective surgery for 20,000 patients. Other industry leaders, however, are strongly critical of NHS private units, largely on the ground that trusts report only their income, not their costs, such as nursing and support staff.

Barry Hassell, the chief executive of the Independent Health Association, says: "Until they publish fully audited accounts, we will not know whether they are making a profit or not."

He doubts that it is appropriate for the trusts to divert tax-funded resources from core NHS activity when NHS treatments are increasingly being "rationed". In the absence of better public information, he argues, it must be assumed that treatment in NHS paybeds is subsidised by the taxpayer.

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Amanda Loose reports on the Government's push to give independent nursing and residential homes the task of caring for the old

# Nursing homes set for boom in business

**A**mid much controversy and calls for the Government to clarify its position on the provision of funding for long-term care for the elderly, one fact stands out.

Up to 70,000 extra places will be needed by the year 2000 in nursing and residential homes, as the elderly population, particularly those over 85, looks set to soar, according to the Independent Healthcare Association (IHA).

By 2005 more than 5 per cent of the population will be 85 or more, compared with 1.7 per cent in 1994.

The answer to their healthcare seems to lie in the growing number of private residential and nursing homes, promoted by the Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell, with the independents now providing about 70 per cent of beds in the health and social care sector.

The number of private nursing home beds alone increased by 12,300 from 1994 to 1995, according to Laing & Buisson, the health consultants, giving a total of 358,800 places in private nursing and residential homes in the UK in April 1995.

Their numbers are so great along the South Coast, where many people go when they retire, that there are simply too many beds at the moment, says Roger Ward, who has run Stanthorpe residential home in Edenbridge, Kent for ten years.

The Government's funding policy has encouraged this boom, according to Barry Hartley, vice-chairman of the National Care Homes Association.

"From 1993, local authorities have received Special Transitional Grants (STG) from the Government which are ring-fenced, meaning that 85 per cent of the total must be spent on care for the elderly in the independent sector. Therefore, many local authority nursing and residential homes have become trusts, because they are then classed as independent homes."

Many groups welcome the expansion of the private sector, including the IHA which does not think the Government has gone far enough. Barry Hassell, the IHA's chief

executive, says: "If the remaining local authority homes were sold off to the independent sector, the Government could save £500 million a year and raise a large capital sum."

Funding is certainly a problem. Some local authorities have frozen or cut the subsidies they give to private homes and which are based on the figures the homes submit, says Mr Hassell. "In some areas authorities have become draconian, particularly in Derbyshire, Hertfordshire and the Wirral. Two years ago in Surrey, the local authority ran out of money and asked homes to take residents for nothing for the next few months."

Mr Hartley agrees with this.

He has run Batley Hall nursing and residential home, south of Leeds, for 22 years and has seen many changes. "I think that local authorities are reducing the amount they contribute. Many authorities are keen to keep people at home and believe that this is a cheaper and better option."

"But if someone at home needs care then the costs are higher so much of the budget is used for a few people and therefore they tend to run out of money. The growing bureaucracy of care also eats into budgets, with increased numbers of care managers and contract managers," he says.

Care in private nursing homes can cost up to £300 a

week. Although more than 40,000 people a year are forced to sell their homes to meet care costs, there are no firm plans or any government-backed private funding initiatives.

Residents in homes are means tested by their local authorities to determine how much they should contribute towards care costs. Single pensioners with assets of between £10,000 and £16,000 have to pay a proportion of care costs, while those with more than £16,000 — including the value of their homes — have to meet the full bill themselves.

"Funding long-term care for the elderly is a social problem which consumers are increasingly concerned about," says Tim Baker of Norwich Union Healthcare. "We need to know that if public money is not going to be available, then care will be funded privately. But to do so effectively, we would need something like the Government's personal pensions initiative, which made it clear exactly what the State would provide, and the cover people would need to take out for long-term care. There would also need to be incentives to induce people to take out cover."

**M**r Hassell agrees. "Long-term care insurance policies were introduced in France, where it has taken ten years to build up about 300,000 policies. The Government must be behind any funding initiatives."

Marjory Knightley Day, of Knightley Nursing Home Services, which manages Bybrook House Nursing Home, near Box in Wiltshire and Chilton House Nursing Home near Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire, often comes face-to-face with the problem.

"Funding long-term care is an important issue, which many people just don't think about until they need it. Then it is sometimes too late. They think that it won't happen to them, but we have families who suddenly have to come to us with a problem. Then they have to learn about nursing and residential homes very quickly."



The garden at Bybrook House nursing home near Bath



Chilton House nursing home, near Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire, is managed by Knightley Nursing Home Services

Private medicine has been viewed as either a justifiable alternative to the National Health Service or a system that favours the better-off. But with companies increasingly putting a high value on the good health of their employees, and the consequent rise in private medical insurance, that view is changing.

Today, some argue that the growth of private hospitals and paybeds in NHS establishments is subsidising the NHS, improving efficiency, widening choice, and making up for shortfalls in public funding. However, critics of private healthcare say that people who appear to be able to afford them are being railroaded into medical insurance contracts.

One thing both parties accept is the inevitability that the private sector will gain a greater say in the composition and management of Britain's hospitals and other healthcare institutions. What underpins this belief is the increase in the cost of welfare spending in most countries, owing to factors including advances in medical technology and the increasing longevity of their populations.

Are these trends acceptable? Yes, says the private

## Giving patients more choice in healthcare

John Stansell on the growth of private medical insurance

medical insurance industry. Britain's hospitals and family doctors could not function adequately without the private sector's financial input, its sponsorship of products and services, or its provision of management expertise.

Barry Wilding of Legal & General says that the private wings and paybeds within NHS hospitals represent the largest group of private healthcare facilities in the country, larger than the solely private hospitals.

Norwich Union commissioned a report in 1995 from National Economic Research Associates which concludes that, taken across the country, each private patient delivers an average of £290 to the NHS hospital in which they are treated, even after taking into account the

required 6 per cent of return on NHS assets and some attention given by junior hospital doctors to private patients. If other "hidden costs" are added in — consultant's time lost to the NHS, training of nurses and doctors and emergency intensive care — the figure still comes to £235, or £140,000 per £1 million of private patient revenue.

Critics of the way private medical insurance is developing are not against the collaboration of private and public health institutions per se, more against specific instances.

Stuart Twaddell, who runs the independent charitable St John and St Elizabeth Hospital in St John's Wood, says that a "collaboration" between the sectors is by and

large useful. He is not, however, convinced that all the costs of private care in the NHS sector have been properly calculated, although he has no doubt that the NHS no longer subsidises its private patients. Norwich Union's NERA report has been criticised, he says, for the small number of hospitals it sampled and for its methodology.

Mr Twaddell argues that hospitals such as his provide a clearer benefit because they are more efficient than private wings and paybeds in NHS hospitals. With 15 per cent of its patients paid for by the NHS, 10 per cent by charity and 75 per cent by the private sector, St John and St Elizabeth makes a surplus that is sufficient to provide a free 36-bed hospice that is available to anybody. "It's a better method of distributing profit than private wings," he says.

These arguments will continue as the industry develops. But will the situation change if Labour wins the general election? Many in the healthcare sector doubt it, saying that despite the criticisms levelled at the Tory-style NHS, they feel the Government "has done a good job" and increased funding to meet needs.

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conjoins up  
a rescue  
package for  
ailing arts  
organisations



**THEATRE**  
*Flesh* has  
plenty of the  
stuff on show  
in its energetic  
romp through  
sex mythology

# THE TIMES ARTS



**MUSIC**  
Valery Gergiev  
beats off the  
noises offstage  
with a fine  
programme of  
Russian classics



**TOMORROW**  
The Schubert  
bicentenary  
and the week's  
other top events  
are previewed in  
The Directory

The Arts Council has thrown a lifeline to some of its debt-swamped clients. Richard Morrison reports

## Rescued, but it's a lottery

The arts world has its own rite of spring, and it happens months before the first cuckoo. Every December the Government tells the Arts Council of England how much subsidy it will receive, and the arts world proclaims itself as good as dead — killed by philistine politicians.

Then in late January the Arts Council announces a wondrous rebirth. The bureaucrats, it transpires, have worked a sleight of book-keeping. The money will, after all, be just enough to go round. The show can go on.

Yesterday the Arts Council was in vintage miracle-working mode. In December it received a "standstill" grant from the Government of £186 million — or, to put it in more topical terms, the equivalent of three royal yachts — to maintain hundreds of illustrious theatre companies, galleries and orchestras. Loud were the protests.

Now, however, the Arts Council declares that it had found an extra £1.5 million by what Mary Allen, its secretary-general, describes as "tinkering and squeezing". So two big opera companies, a dozen regional theatres and several art galleries actually receive substantial increases.

And the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, which is in dire financial condition, at last gets a public subsidy to keep its century-old Gilbert and Sullivan tradition alive. "Its standards have been much better recently," says Allen. "The company is facing closure, and the council thought that this was a huge shame." So clearly the grant has nothing to do with the pressure put on

Gowrie by a gang of G&S-humming Tory grandees.

But there was a new twist to yesterday's ritual. The Arts Council also named the first organisations to benefit from its dearly-titled "stabilisation programme", instigated after the Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, relaxed the lottery rules last year. "It's a terrible name," Allen admits. "We even flirted with the idea of calling it the Phoenix Fund. But that would imply that

**Debts in the arts world are enormous at present**

companies had to be reduced to ashes before one could resurrect them.

Nevertheless, resurrection — or rescue, or bailing-out — is what stabilisation is mostly about. It offers a one-off chance for selected arts organisations to put their house, and their finances, in order. Debts in the arts are currently enormous. Regional theatres collectively are £8 million in the red. Both London opera houses are running £3 million deficits. So stabilisation is seen as a life-raft, and 129 organisations applied for 15 places on this pilot scheme.

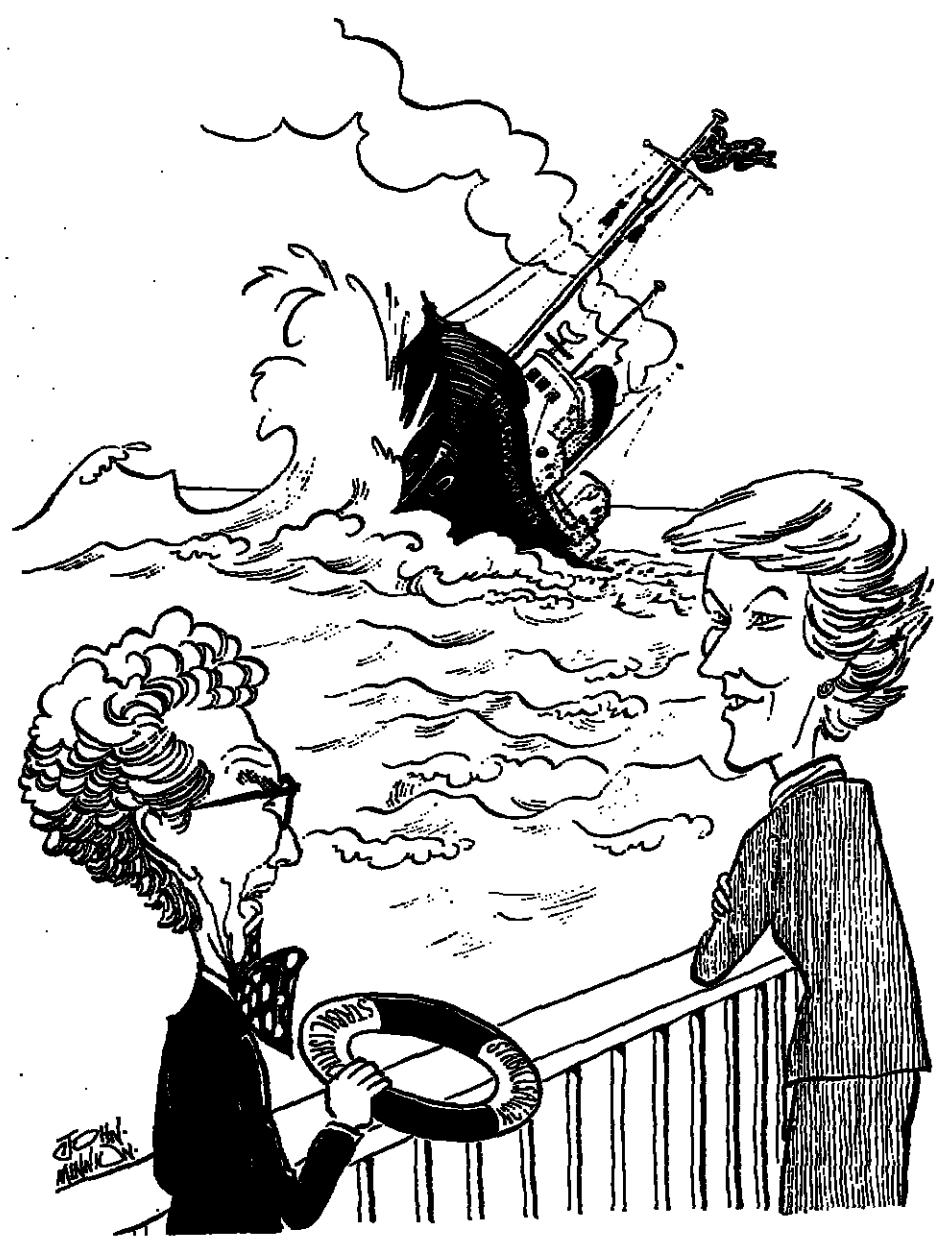
Companies that have already received a lottery grant for a capital project are ineligible, which means that we won't have the pleasure of seeing the Royal Opera House

receive another lottery hand-out. But English National Opera, despite being castigated in certain quarters for its "pie in the sky" plan to build a new opera house, will get stabilisation money to ease it out of its current cash crisis. And the West Yorkshire Playhouse, which seemed forever doomed to be paying off the debt on a theatre built in 1991, is now able to draw a line under that ancient column of red ink.

The Arts Council, however, is keen to portray stabilisation as more than just a way of writing off debts. Otherwise it has no defence against accusations (already flying around yesterday) that it is supporting lame managements and punishing virtue. "Yes, the majority of applicants are in there because they saw stabilisation as a way of getting their deficits paid off," Allen admits. "But we aren't simply going to write cheques. The best applicants had constructive strategies for changing themselves so that they don't get in this position again."

And at least two successful applicants had no financial problems at all. The London Symphony Orchestra — which, says Allen, made a "brilliant application" — is already riding high on plentiful subsidy. Yet it gets stabilisation funds when its main London rival, the Philharmonia Orchestra — which has achieved admirable things from a much more precarious base — does not. And then there is the Embroiders' Guild, which is given stabilisation funds to "relocate". Just how unstable is the world of needwork?

In fact no cheques will be



signed for some time. First the Arts Council will send "specialist advisers" into the companies to "develop strategies for change". Then these will be costed. The 15 companies may eventually receive £15 million between them, but this will be spread over three years. Allen expects no more than £5 million of lottery money to be spent in the first year. Compared with £78 million going to the Royal Opera House

redevelopment, it's peanuts.

That might be seen as the scheme's biggest flaw. For all the fuss being made yesterday, it actually commits only a tiny part of the Arts Council's vast lottery windfall (£250 million last year) to the urgent problem of reducing its clients' debts.

Another school of thought, however, sees stabilisation as the thin end of a wedge. From now on, cynics argue, lottery

money is likely to be used increasingly to bolster the dwindling arts subsidy supplied by government. Not surprisingly, that is a scenario which the Arts Council is keen to suppress. "Grants using lottery funds are strictly on a one-off basis," says Allen firmly. "They certainly can't provide revenue funding."

I wonder how quaint that idealistic notion will seem five years from now.

### AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Fifteen organisations have been selected for the pilot phase of the lottery-funded stabilisation fund. They are:

- Birmingham Rep. To attract new audiences, and explore recording and broadcasting opportunities
- Blackheath Concert Halls. To create a "trading arm"
- Bournemouth Orchestras. To respond to new markets
- Bristol City Consortium. To link up the Arncliffe, Bristol Old Vic and Watershed Arts Trust
- Cinema City, Norwich. To redefine its role as a regional film theatre
- Embroiders' Guild. To relocate this crafts organisation outside London
- English National Opera. An immediate plan to "close its current operating deficit", and to create a "stock of revivable productions"
- Hampshire Arts Centres Consortium. To help six arts centres to plan for "foreseeable reductions in subsidy" after local government reorganisation
- Inner City Music, Manchester. To help this multicultural venue to tackle "serious financial difficulties" and recover its audience
- The Junction, Cambridge. To enable this venue to produce riskier work
- London Symphony Orchestra. To expand its education programme and increase broadcasts
- Northern Sinfonia. To prepare for relocation in five years' time to a new music centre in Gateshead
- Sheffield Museums Consortium. To combat reductions in subsidy by exploiting assets
- Tara Arts, London. To develop a permanent home for Asian theatre
- West Yorkshire Playhouse. To clear outstanding debts from the building of its new theatre in 1991

In addition, other arts organisations benefited from "uplifts" or one-off subsidies, allocated out of the Arts Council's 1997-98 grant. They include:

- D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. The Gilbert and Sullivan company is saved from extinction by a one-off £100,000 grant, plus a possible £150,000 for touring
- Donmar Warehouse. Sam Mendes's high-profile Covent Garden theatre gets another one-off grant of £150,000
- Welsh National Opera. £400,000 extra to ensure that its English touring is not reduced
- Opera North. £200,000 extra to support touring
- Rambert Dance. £40,000 extra to support touring
- Regional theatres. £315,000 to provide uplifts for Derby Playhouse, Leicester Haymarket, Northern Stage, Bristol Old Vic, Plymouth Theatre Royal, Stoke-on-Trent. £350,000 to provide one-off grants to develop local-authority partnerships and ensure long-term survival of Liverpool Theatres, Belgrade Coventry and Sheffield Theatres. £200,000 to London Arts Board to address "urgent needs" of theatres and galleries
- Jazz/New Music ensembles. £130,000 for a new fund
- Galleries. £50,000 extra to the Serpentine, Whitechapel and Bristol Arncliffe. £40,000 extra to the Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

## Thanx for the energy

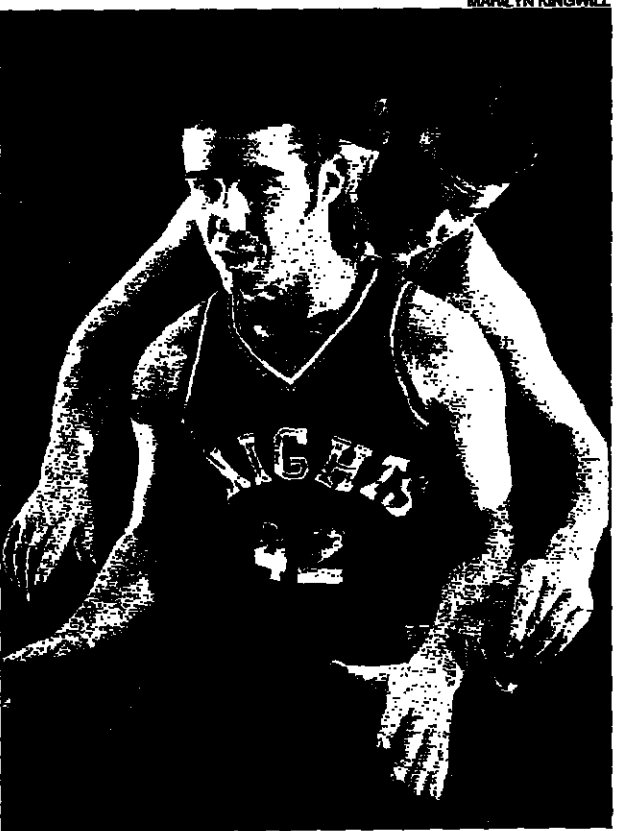
Knowing nothing about Frantic Assembly except that it is a touring company with a reputation for lively work and a home in Swansea, I did not know what to expect from its latest show. The programme gave thanks to a local butcher, and "v spesh thanx" to "Joy, Leo and Laurian for their cooking skills and general loveliness".

**THEATRE**  
**Flesh**  
Battersea Arts Centre

so maybe I was in for a celebration of that endangered species, the carnivore, or a politically incorrect attack on animal-rights.

Eighty minutes on, I was thoroughly disabused and, since the BAC staff had helpfully shifted me to the centre of the front row, rather wet. One of the four-person cast had just dealt with the other three in the way you and I might deal with excited cats late at night. He had thrown a bucket of water over them as, stripped to their undies, they pushed and pulled at each other in a furious display of erotic greed and aggression. "Flesh" meant sex, and sex had variously been accused of being callous, acquisitive, painful, dangerous and necessary.

Very vividly, too. This company's energy could power



Erotic reverie: Scott Graham and Steven Hoggett

two or three Branzons round the world without a balloon to help. They zoom round the tiny stage, banging off the walls, flipping over each other and doing alarming acrobatics within inches of the front row. They are more selectively successful when they speak.

for Spencer Hazel's script has its overwrought moments. No spesh thanx from me for such sexual euphemisms as "Sink your Bismarck in my Channel straits" or wordplay as forced as "charge of the blight brigade" or "clean bill of wealth". But some of the evening's

constituent sketches are more lifelike. Cait Davis describes a prostitute's chummy relationship with her local vice squad, deploring its replacement by ordinary coppers who fail to understand that Wednesdays are sometimes less convenient than Thursdays for an appearance in court. Scott Graham talks of earning money as a model, a kissogram, anything so as to afford a life of serial affairs. Korina Biggs and Steven Hoggett join them for a little reverie about early erotic or semi-erotic encounters with a fetishist, a gay piano teacher, a jealous father. The punishment for adultery in Iran is horribly evoked, I forget by whom.

Though I was not wholly delighted when the buxom Davis grabbed me by a lapel and mumbled something sub-Shakespearean about "lewd fellows of the baser sort", I never felt *Flesh* was frivolous, smutty or opportunistic. These actors are not cynical about their work, but they do seem pretty cynical about love, tenderness and the softer emotions. For them, sex may be defined as a means of escaping loneliness and gratifying the id which, in some societies, may end with you being buried to the neck and spending maybe ten, maybe 60 seconds being stoned to death. Sad, sad, sad.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

CONCERT: The Philharmonia excel under Gergiev at the Festival Hall

CONSIDERABLE diplomatic skills must have been deployed in the interval of the Philharmonia's South Bank concert under Valery Gergiev on Tuesday night to persuade the contractors working on the Jubilee Line extension to suspend their activities during the second half of the programme. The dull din of the piledrivers on the other side of the river had provided an unwanted counterpoint to Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings in C Major, but for Shostakovich's Fourth Symphony there were no such distractions.

The sheer density of sound Gergiev drew from the Philharmonia at key points of this prodigious score might reasonably have drawn protests in return, though in the concert hall it all seemed integral to the reading. That reliable judgment made Gergiev's account more powerful and convincing than ever. The idiosyncratic

### How to silence the piledrivers

structure of the Fourth poses immense problems in performance. Commentators who have traditionally dismissed the work as "sprawling" have recently been rebuked by scholars who discern in the first movement, at least, an expanded sonata form with ingenious thematic transformations.

The measure of Gergiev's success was that he made that immense first movement, episodic as it is — grotesque and elegiac by turns — utterly compelling. Not

once did the concentrated energy seem in danger of dissipating. The Mahlerian quality of the Ländler-like second movement was well realised, and the coiled-spring tick-tock ending beautifully controlled. The weight of sound in the finale was again thrillingly overwhelming, yet it was the eerily tranquil ending that caught the imagination.

The Philharmonia, playing excellently for Gergiev, gave an outstanding performance too of the Tchaikovsky Serenade. The textures produced, in the outer movements especially, were rich and vibrant, but thanks to Gergiev's hyperactivity they never seemed clogged. Rich sonorities and pliant phrasing combined in a deeply felt reading of the third-movement Elegy, which concluded with a truly ethereal web of sound.

BARRY MILLINGTON

10p

THE TIMES

BAKED ALASKA,  
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POUNDS THERE.

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CHANGING TIMES





## CHOICE

Simon Callow narrates the premiere of McBurney's *Desire*

VENUE: Sunday, Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham



## POP 1

Heavy and proud of its Reef hit a winning groove with their new album, *Glow*



## POP 2

Dark undertones and pretty tunes notwithstanding, Marcella Detroit still loses the plot on *Feeler*



## POP 3

Those veteran punks, the Stranglers, jump through the old hoops again on *Written in Red*

## LONDON

**DEBUSSY DAY:** The French pianist Philippe Cassard performs Debussy's complete piano works in recitals, at 11.30am, 2.30pm, 4pm and 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (011-936 2141), Sunday, 25

**FESTIVAL HALL:** A busy three days begins with Paddy Breckinridge conducting the BBC Symphony Orchestra in a concert of works by Johannes Brahms, Sibelius and Nielsen (tonight, 7.30pm). Tomorrow (7.30pm), in the third of seven monthly recitals, Martin Peltier conducts a chronological survey of all the Beethoven piano concertos. At 3.15pm on Sunday, the Cheltenham String Quartet is joined by Simon Phipps-Jones, violin, Andrew Mannering, cello, and Leon McCawley, piano, for an all-Mozart programme in aid of the Lord Mayor's Appeal for the Cancer Research Campaign. The weekend ends (Sunday, 7.30pm) with the London Philharmonic Orchestra playing Beethoven's stormy Eighth Concerto, Szymanowski's First Violin Concerto (Daniel Barenboim) and Britten's notorious Second Symphony. Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (011-960 4242) Tonight-Sun various times.

**NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY:** *Shakespeare's World (1728-1780): An African Man of Letters* (today May 11) uncovers the life of the former slave who became a respected figure in the literary, artistic and musical circles of

## WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Macey

**18th-century London:** Meanwhile, the Photographers Gallery presents *Perceptions on a Theme: 180 Years of Photography of British Composers* (today May 26), which includes a collection of photographs of composers from Ireland and Peter Warlock, and a septa-bromide of Sir Edward Elgar. National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, WC2 (011-306 0056) Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, midday-4pm.

**ELSEWHERE:** **BELFAST:** Yon Tormeyan conducts the St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra in an all-Chopin programme tomorrow. A third concert on Sunday includes music by Szymanowski and Shostakovich. Waterfront Hall, Oxford Street (01232 334455) Tonight-Sun, 8pm.

**BIRMINGHAM:** Music by Shostakovich, Beethoven and Prokofiev precede the world premiere performance of Gerard McBurney's new work, *Desire*. Narrator Simon Callow and mezzo-soprano Susan Buckley join the

**Birmingham Contemporary Music Group** and singers perform in Birmingham Symphony Chorus. The conductor is Mark Elder. Adeline Bank Hall, Birmingham (0121-256 5522) Sunday, 7.30pm.

**GLASGOW:** Cycle Unity Theatre presents the first major stage adaptation of the City novel: *Robbery*. The London characters find their dongs tangled up with a royal visit to California. John Durrell adapts, Ian Brown directs. Tron, 85 Throgmole (011-552 4257). Preview tonight, 8pm. Opens tomorrow, 8pm. Then Tue-Sun, 8pm mat. Sat, 2pm. Unit Feb 2, Tunnies to the Unit Hall, London, on Feb 5.

**LONDON GALLERIES:** Alan Cotter, *Mixed Stock Show* (011-436 1866). **Barbican:** *Drawings* - Tjallingii (011-638 4111). **Dalston:** *Wendell* (011-257 6600). **European Academy:** *Academica Italiana* (011-255 0303). **Festival Hall:** *The Scene Eye* (Visual Art and the Theatre) (011-960 4242). **National Theatre:** *Shogun on Stage* (011-928 2232). **The Old Vic:** *Travelling Without Moving* (011-342 2871). **Saatchi:** *Forma Rara*, Gary Hume (011-254 8299). **Tom Black:** *The Goodbye Photographs* by Yevonde (011-376 1320).

## THEATRE GUIDE

January Kingdon's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

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## THREE CHAMBER PLAYS

Three short plays by Strindberg about sexual and religious relationships. *Storm*, *After the Fire*, *The Ghost Sonata* - that should gain from being played together. Priorities in pairs, with the director on Thurs and Sat, Ring low office for copies of pairings. Gate, 11 Pentridge Road, W11 (011-222 0702), Mon-Wed and Fri, 7.30pm, Thurs and Sat, 8.30pm. Unit Feb 1

## WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?

Woolf: Dana Pigg and David Suchet in Howard Davies's powerful Alfreda production of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (011-494 5400).

*An Inspector Calls* (011-494 5400).

*Victory Palace* (011-494 5400).

*The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (011-494 5400).

*Don't* (011-494 5400).

*Drum* (011-494 5400).

*The Inspector Calls* (011-494 5400).

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Reef's ability to come up with superlative heavy rock makes their second album, *Glow*, an invigorating experience

## Four Free spirits

POP ALBUMS: Bona-fide blasting, hairy, heavy rock is back, and Reef have it sussed, says David Sinclair

## REEF

*Glow* (Sony S2 486 940 £13.99)

THE besetting vice of modern heavy rock music is its lack of a groove. While the originals of the genre - such as

Free, Led Zeppelin and AC/DC - understood the importance of injecting swing into the rhythm section's step, their copyists, by and large, seem to think that cranking up the volume is enough.

That is why Reef, whose name is a respectful anagram of Free, stand so far above the current competition. Certainly they play well, and Gary Stringer is a brilliant vocalist, his Neanderthal roar the nearest thing that the 1990s has produced to rival Mick Jagger's glacial delivery. But it is the band's ability to come up with some superlative heavy rock that makes their second album, *Glow*, such an invigorating experience.

The album has virtually no guitar solos and little bab. What it does boast is plenty of memorable choruses and a wonderful swagger. In particular, the sledgehammer riffs of *I Would Have Left You* and *Summer in Bloom* are nothing short of sublime.

MARCELLA DETROIT

*Feeler* (AAA/Total AAA CD1 £15.49)

WHATEVER went wrong with Marcella Detroit? Three years ago, when she emerged from the chart-topping

## POP ALBUMS: Bona-fide blasting,

hairy, heavy rock is back, and Reef have it sussed, says David Sinclair

Shakespeare Sister with a sparkling debut album, *Jewel*, her fortune looked assured. That record underperformed dramatically, and her recent single, *Boy*, also missed the boat, despite plenty of airplay.

Dropped by her record company after *Jewel*, she is back with *Feeler*, released on her own label. But still the pieces of the jigsaw refuse to fall into place and she now finds herself in no man's land, squeezed between the new breed of oddball pop acts (such as Alisa's *Amie*) and tougher rock'n'roll types, such as Garbage.

A confident combination of orchestrated acoustic pop and occasionally rockier material, *Feeler* sounds good in places and demonstrates that Detroit still has a knack for lacing

pretty tunes with dark undertones. But there is nothing particularly fresh about *Feeler*, and one suspects that nothing short of an Armand Van Helden remix will give her career the lift it needs.

THE STRANGLERS

*Written in Red* (Whet Recordings/Castle Communications WEN CD 009 £13.99)

THERE is no mystery about what went wrong with the Stranglers. Since the departure of singer and guitarist Hugh Cornwell in 1990, the superannuated punks have failed to forge a new identity, preferring to replicate the look and sound that provided them with a string of hits until the late 1980s.

The strategy continues with

*Written in Red*. Singer Paul Roberts still sounds like a poor man's Cornwell as they sail through a respectable set of new compositions in a familiar vein, but without ever quite putting their finger on the old magic.

DOUGIE MACLEAN

*The Dougie MacLean Collection* (Putumayo World Music MWT 574 £14.99)

THE little-known but apparently influential Scottish folk singer Dougie MacLean has been turning out albums on his own label since 1983. Now the rest of the world is starting to take notice, and this collection of his best-known material, including the hit *Myra* (a minor hit for Frankie Miller in 1992), is released to coincide with a BBC2 documentary, *Song Roads*, to be screened tomorrow.

While vigorously parading his Scottish roots in romantic rhymes which talk of "highland dreams" and "mountain streams", MacLean's singing voice and gentle, acoustic guitar style betray the middle-of-the-road, earnestly earnest nature of the songs. The Scottish James Taylor.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 822498.

Chris Parker

Chris Parker

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POP 4

He ain't bitter: Brett Anderson turns a wry eye towards the troubled history of Suede



POP 5

Keep it simple, guys: while other bands stagnate in the studios, the Fugees can record on the road

THE TIMES POP ARTS



NEXT WEEK

Times critics report on the diverse cultural scene, from Vanessa-Mae's pop violin gigs...

NEXT WEEK

... to Covent Garden's new production of Hans Pfitzner's epic opera *Palestrina*

Suede were mammoth, then they were rubbished, and now they're hot again. David Sinclair takes to their leader

# Welcome back, Brettpop

If ever a band has experienced the fickle nature of fame it is Suede. The group that the giants of Britpop were supposed to have buried are currently enjoying the last laugh. Any day now, their third album, *Coming Up*, will be certified platinum for sales of 300,000 copies in Britain. Their new single, *Saturday Night*, is sitting pretty at No 6 in the chart. And their tour, which opens on Sunday, is virtually sold out, with shows in Brighton and Edinburgh having to be switched to larger venues to accommodate the demand for tickets.

Can this be the same Suede whose demise was so confidently predicted only two years ago? Back then, in the wake of guitarist and co-songwriter Bernard Butler's abrupt departure from the group and the relative failure of their gloriously ambitious second album, *Dog Man Star*, it was as if open season had been declared on the band.

The music press, which had previously championed the group like no other before them, suddenly went cold, while the rising stars of Britpop gleefully took potshots at will. Suede's new guitarist, Richard Oakes, was derided for his youth and inexperience, while singer Brett Anderson was deemed to be overweight and over the hill.

"It was a nightmare," Anderson recalls. "We'd had two or three years of microscopic attention and severe praise, with everyone saying Suede are the saviours of guitar music, and then all of a sudden there was a chink in the armour that people could get their knives into. It annoyed me, because you shouldn't have a go at someone about a line-up change or because of how they look in photographs. You should base your criticism of a band on the work they put out."

Suede, to their eternal credit, did not rise to the bait. Anderson maintained a dignified silence, not only about the rift with Butler, but also in response to the insults from other bands. He still declines to comment on Butler — whose subsequent alliance with the singer David McAlmont ended in a very public spat — and trends warily when it comes to the quarrelsome nature of the new wave of British stars that came up in Suede's wake.

"I was pretty miserable for a year or so," Anderson says. "And I still get the sense that, for a lot of people in the 1990s, the whole point of being in a band is to brag about it and get as many steps up the ladder so you can piss on the people below. But music is far more important than that."



Brett Anderson does his lungs no good at all while reflecting on the return of Suede from limbo to a No 1 album and sold-out tour, starting on Sunday

Instead of trading insults with the new boys, Suede responded to the challenge by writing and recording *Coming Up*, a brilliant collection of songs that went to No 1 last September. With an additional new member in multi-instrumentalist and singer Neil Codling on board, their reinvention was complete and they set about touring with a relentless hunger and enthusiasm that put most of the newer acts to shame.

"There's a lot of bitchiness and negativity in the music business in the 1990s," Anderson says. "Anyone who wants to do anything a bit frivolous or a bit strange or less set in the standard rock'n'roll mould comes in for a lot of criticism. But I do believe that once you look after your musical house then everything else around it follows. And that's what I've always tried to do."

Sitting in his record com-

pany offices on the eve of Suede's latest round of dates, Anderson looks sensational. Taller than you would expect, he is tanned and relaxed after a six-day holiday in the Caribbean; and supermodel thin. He says he lost weight and regained his natural optimism for life by cutting down drastically on his intake of drink and drugs.

"In your twenties life seems to be this golden path stretching out miles before you, then you start to notice cracks appearing. I'm 29 now, old enough for my body to start misbehaving if I don't look out."

While hardly one to moan about the "pressures of fame", Anderson readily admits that the extraordinary attention

which Suede initially received did have an adverse effect on his personality.

"Too much press and drugs always breed paranoia and self-obsession," he says. "I did turn into a bit of a caricature after the first album, going off to this strange, rambling house in Highgate and writing strange things. I'm sure the coverage we got was a factor in Bernard's decision to leave. Some people simply aren't cut out for coping with that kind of attention."

He tells a revealing story about the meeting he had with the group's record company which resulted in the selection of *We Are the Pigs* as the first single to be released from *Dog Man Star*. It turned out to be a disastrous choice which barely scraped into the Top 20 and got the album off to a resoundingly poor start.

"The head of Sony and everyone from the record company said: 'Not *We are the Pigs*,' he remembers. 'But I insisted it had to be the first single. I was convinced it was this incredibly uniting anthem and of course I was completely wrong. I'd misread people's perception of the song. I'd lost my perspective on reality.'"

"That he can now so cheerfully admit culpability in such matters speaks volumes about Anderson's current frame of mind, and the chances of him turning into another Morrissey now seem remote. Indeed, he roundly applauds the recent court ruling in favour of Morrissey's former bandmate Mike Joyce, drummer for the Smiths, who claimed that the singer had

done him out of his fair share of the group's earnings. "People often ask me if I've thought of starting a solo career. Not in a million years. Being in Suede is where it's at for me," Anderson concludes.

● Suede's British tour starts at St George's Hall, Bradford, on Sunday. They then play Poole Jan 27; Guildford Jan 28; Cambridge Jan 30; Brighton Feb 3; Folkestone 4; Reading Feb 5; Plymouth Feb 7; Watford Feb 8; York Feb 9; Middlesbrough Feb 11; Edinburgh Feb 13; Carlisle Feb 14; Blackburn Feb 15.

● Coming Up and Saturday Night are available on Nude Records

## Kingston's king of skank steps out

REGGAE

Ernest Ranglin Jazz Café, NW1

HE LOOKS like Nelson Mandela and he practically invented reggae. Ernest Ranglin is one of those legendary sidemen who is to be heard playing on a hundred records in everyone's collection, but whose name has remained unknown.

That is beginning to change, with last year's acclaimed solo album *Below the Bassline* and now these gigs. Ranglin arranged the smash hit *My Boy Lollipop* for Millie Small, which introduced Jamaican rhythms to the world in 1964, and has since worked with just about every artist who has ever entered a studio in downtown Kingston, from Bob Marley to Jimmy Cliff. This was the man, it is said, whose guitar slowed down the ska rhythm and turned it into that famous ka-chicka reggae beat.

Yet you get the feeling that Ranglin is happiest playing not reggae at all but jazz, albeit of a heavily Caribbean-tinged variety. Ranglin does all the things jazzers do — he plays two sets, uses a double bass and a grand piano.

His first set was very jazzy. "On guitar, George Benson," he teased, as he introduced himself and the band. It is no

joke, for in this mood his fluid lines sound distinctly like the smooth American jazz-funkster, and even a reggae tune like *Congo Man* could pass muster in a cocktail lounge.

The crowd was politely appreciative but had come primarily to hear those skanking Jamaican rhythms. Ranglin knew it and in the second set he did not disappoint. The sound was immediately scratchier, dirtier, as he chugged out *King Tubby meets the Rockers*.

Those who had listened patiently through the first set began to move their feet as the guitarist glided rhythmically through ska, rocksteady and reggae beats. There is no trickery, no dub or echo, just four honest instrumentalists playing the best Jamaican grooves you ever heard at the highest level of musicianship.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

## Jam without gel

JAZZ

Theman, Weller and Barnes Warwick Arts Centre

DON WELLER and Art Theman have worked together for so long that in a quintet setting they fit comfortably, like an old pair of slippers. But by adding a third frontline voice in the person of Alan Barnes, more was needed than a few perfunctory head arrangements to show off each saxophonist's individual voice and to create a convincing ensemble sound. Halfway through a tour that takes in a variety of venues, the sextet could have done with a firmer hand to impose more structure on what amounted to a formal concert at Warwick University's studio theatre.

The addition of Barnes to the group (which uses Dave Newton's trio as its rhythm section) has bought a pugnacious, combative ingredient to the sound. In their solos, he and Newton showed a degree of commitment and passion largely absent from the others. The band worked best in a hard bop/soul jazz groove, with *Old Blues Eyes* and *Sister Sadie* standing out.

In the past Newton has seemed a rather clinical pianist, but both with the trio

and when the others dropped back to leave him playing alone, he showed maturity, depth and feeling. From time to time, Newton himself fell out, leaving the rhythm to Arnie Somogyi's subtle bass and the tense drumming of Dave Barry. Weller came into his own in this setting, and his even tone and upper harmonies were impressive.

Theman's solos were understated and his ballad feature lacked the bite and individuality he characteristically displays. Barnes showed a beguiling mixture of vigour and originality. Having opted for a loose, jamming atmosphere, there was a disappointment that his frontline partners failed to rise to the challenge he presented.

ALYN SHIPTON

## Give us passion, not precision

Get out of the studios and record your next track in the bathroom to rediscover some rock'n'roll excitement, says Caitlin Moran

Joe Meek, the producer of *Telstar*, used to do it in his bathroom. Björk did it in the toilets of a London club. Luscious Jackson have just finished doing it in their drummer's flat, and the Stooges, bless them, did it live on stage and split up immediately afterwards.

The success of White Town's *Your Woman* — straight in at Number One, recorded in a bedroom on a four-track machine, and making many bands rethink their strategy — has reaffirmed that the best music doesn't always come from glossily expensive studios. The kind of music that makes you want to change your life just needs a little bit of equipment and a lot of spirit and verve. Unfortunately, studios offer the exact opposite. Passion, tenderness and anger have to be summoned up in airless, windowless bunkers full of bored people.

Studios frequently ruin bands — there are countless tales of squabbles, fights and resignations issuing from various dim basements all over Britain. Tears For Fears' five-year stretch recording *The Seeds of Love* became so fraught that Curt Smith quit after Roland Orzabel spent six weeks on one drum programme; and Radiohead found the pressure of recording *The Bends* so great that they had to arrange a gig fast just to remind themselves what being Radiohead was all about.

Studios, and modern recording practices, are so bizarre and distanced from the original gut-kick of rock that it's a wonder there have been any decent albums in the past 30 years. In the olden days of black and white and mop-tops, albums were recorded by bands simply playing a gig in a room with microphones. There were relatively few re-takes or overdubs, and any "mistakes" were simply regarded as

part of the song. Albums would be recorded in a week, bands kept up their momentum, and as the time difference between the conception of a song and its release was so little, the hits were released while their subject matter was still current.

These days, it generally takes a year or more for songs to see the light of day — bands spend upwards of four months in the studio, without the release of playing together to ease any tension. Recording is an abstract,

disjointed affair — four members will slope off to the pub while the fifth lays down his bit, "jamming" with nothing more exciting than a click track to keep him in time. Why has timing been prioritised over everything else? Musicians should be recording to the sounds of teenage boys screaming, cool girls exclaiming "This band define the zeitgeist," and dudely old rockers exclaiming "Hey man, there's Mama Cass choking on a sandwich", in order to promote that rock'n'roll excitement.



Prakazrel Michel, Lauryn Hill and Wydeff Jean of the Fugees can record new songs in their tour bus fresh and raw from a live premiere on stage

Some bands have abandoned studios altogether. With fees for a fairly average studio running at £1,500 a day, shrewd pop stars invest three days' studio budget in equipment and record at home. The success of Babybird's *You're Gorgeous* drew attention to the fact that songwriter Steve Jones recorded his previous five albums at home. Both *Firestarter* and *Breathe* by the Prodigy were recorded at home. The Fugees have a 48-track studio on their tour bus; new songs are premiered on stage and recorded within the hour — still raw and full of rock vitamins. Trying to remember and reproduce emotions in a studio three months later leads to all manner of stinkiness — the Cranberries' last album, for one.

Of course, in the late Sixties, when the move towards more "adult" and "progressive" music meant that bands needed ever more advanced equipment, studios were the only option. Effects units in those days were huge — engineers would drive the latest ones in the studio and park them with difficulty. Bands would live inside them for weeks. Some think Lord Lucan may be raising a family in ELO's old echo-chamber. But as microchips got cheaper in the Eighties, and started being incorporated into small, portable keyboards and samplers rather than being wasted on bombs and the like, the difference between the gear in a studio and the stuff you can pick up in any music shop became tiny. *Your Woman* by White Town was recorded on equipment that totalled less than £1,000, in the songwriter's parents' house; and, as any pop star will agree, the benefits of having your rum ready to comfort you when your sampler breaks down and refuses to do anything other than make a disturbing "ping" sound are immeasurable.

## THE TIMES PRESENTS Valentine's Day

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# BOARDING SCHOOLS

TEL:  
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10.00am - 12 noon

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- FREE TUITION - ONLY PAY FOR BOARDING
- ADMISSION AT 11, 12, 13 AND 16
- THE ONLY SPECIALIST COLLEGE WITH PRIORITY ADMISSION IN MUSIC AND SPORT
- 6TH FORM BOARDING SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE - Closing date for applications: 27 January 1997.

For further details contact  
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Wymondham,  
Norfolk, NR18 9SZ.  
Tel: (01953) 609014,  
Fax: (01953) 603313.



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Scholarship and Entrance Examinations  
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Experience life in the  
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For further information please contact:  
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Oxon, OX12 8BZ. Tel: 01235 768523  
or email: stmarysw@compuk.co.uk

Registered Charity - Number 309245

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- Excellent facilities and good results
- A wide range of Sixth Form courses
- Scholarships available at 7, 11 & 16+

For further details please contact The Admissions Secretary,  
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Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 4HF

Tel: 01923 773168

The Rickmansworth Masonic School is a registered charity.  
Registered Charity No. 276784

## CHARTERHOUSE

1997

NEWTON

### SCHOLARSHIPS

up to full fees\*

for talented girls and boys  
to study A level

Details from:  
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\*depending on parental income

Charterhouse is an educational charity Registered Number 212054



"More like a second home than a  
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drama and art, but neither do most other prep schools.

We offer a broad curriculum to boys and girls aged  
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discover and develop their own skills. Class sizes are  
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individual help and guidance. The school has long  
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Tel: Cancliff (01483) 277313 Fax: (01483) 273862



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Co-educational: 13 - 18 : H.M.C.

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Academic Scholarships  
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Telephone: 01909 537127  
Facsimile: 01909 537102

Workshop College is one of the Woodward Group of Schools



## St Mary's School Calne

Wiltshire SN11 0DF

Tel: 01249 815899

Fax: 01249 822432

GSA Independent Boarding and Day School  
300 girls aged 11-18  
85% boarding

- strong academic tradition
- excellent music, art and drama facilities
- scholarships available at 11+, 12+ and VI Form
- friendly, relaxed atmosphere
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- comprehensive extra-curricular activities

The school has Charity Status  
and exists for the education of girls  
Registered Charity No 309482

## GORDONSTOUN SCHOOL

MAKES YOU THINK

THE NEXT  
MILLENNIUM WILL  
NEED PEOPLE WHO  
DO

For details of our many scholarships and  
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requirements please contact:  
The Headmaster, Gordonstoun School,  
Elgin, Moray IV30 2RF  
Tel: 01343 830445. Fax: 01343 830 651.  
email: jldhomas@compuk.co.uk

Gordonstoun is a charitable foundation society for educational purposes.



## Sexey's School

Grant Maintained Co-Educational Boarding School  
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Affordable boarding for pupils aged 11 to 18, with a  
large and dynamic Day Sixth Form. Tuition is paid for  
by the Government - parents only pay for their  
children's accommodation.

- A strong academic tradition
- A supportive pastoral system
- Highly placed in national league tables
- Featured in the Daily Telegraph and Sunday Times Good Schools Guide
- Affiliated to the Technology Colleges Trust
- A wide range of extra-curricular activities
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For an illustrated prospectus and further information  
Please telephone 01749 813455  
and ask for: Liz Anton for admission to boarding  
ages 11 and 13, Jacky Fairhurst for Day and  
Boarding Sixth Form  
PROVIDING GRANT MAINTAINED EDUCATION  
IN SOMERSET



## St Helen's School

Northwood, Middlesex

### Independent Day and Boarding [GSA]

Day Girls 11-18

Weekly/Full Boarding 9-18

- Excellent results
- Quality teaching
- Attractive campus for the individual
- Flairing Sixth Form

Entry at 4½, 7½, 11½, 12½, 16½

Sixth Form Entry Examination:  
1st March, 1997.

Scholarships and DPPE Assisted Places available.

For further information contact:

Admissions Registrar Tel: 01923 836823

Fax: 01923 836824

St Helen's School, Northwood, is a registered charity  
which exists for the education of girls.  
Charity No. 268878

## THE GODOLPHIN SCHOOL



### Salisbury INDEPENDENT BOARDING SCHOOL AND DAY SCHOOL FOR 400 GIRLS AGED 11 - 18

Academic excellence with happy, family run boarding.  
Historic Cathedral city, superb Wiltshire countryside.  
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Preparatory school for day girls from five.

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The Godolphin School is a registered charity  
which exists for the education of girls.

## QUEEN ANNE'S SCHOOL Caversham

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- Entry at any age.
- Scholarships are available at 11, 12, 13 and in the Sixth Form.
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For further information, please contact us at:

6 Henley Road - Caversham

Reading - RG4 6DX

Tel: 0118 947 1582 Fax: 0118 946 1498.

QUEEN ANNE'S SCHOOL EXISTS TO PROVIDE EDUCATION FOR  
GIRLS. CHARITY NO. 312708

## An evening at home...



### An evening at Aldenham!



Established 1597. An independent boarding  
and day school. Magnificent grounds.  
High standards. Ring for details.

### THE ADDED VALUE SCHOOL ALDENHAM SCHOOL

(BOYS 11-18 GIRLS 16-18)

Elstree, Herts. WD6 3AJ Telephone: 01923 858122  
A leading Charitable School in the field of Secondary Education

## DURHAM SCHOOL

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great Norman Cathedral of Durham

An HMC Boarding & Day School for boys  
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### BURKITT SCHOLARSHIPS awarded for entry into the Sixth Form in Academic work, Art, Music & Sport

Examinations in February 1997

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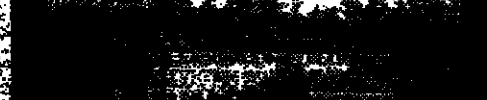
The Headmaster's Office

Tel: 0191 3847977

Durham School Advancing Education in the North-East

Registered Charity No. 1023407

## Windlesham



At Windlesham School, we aim to provide a  
high quality education for all our pupils, whether  
they are day or boarding pupils.

We have a strong tradition of academic excellence  
and a high reputation for Music & Sport.

Our aim is to provide a high quality education for  
all our pupils, whether they are day or boarding pupils.

For further information, please contact:

Admissions Registrar Tel: 01923 836823

Fax: 01923 836824



## MILL HILL SCHOOL

London's leading co-educational boarding and day  
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boys and girls at 13+, 14+ and 16+ in September 1997  
(a limited number of boarding places at 11+ are also available)

- Newly refurbished boarding houses provide outstanding facilities
- Full boarding or weekly boarding available
- High standards of pastoral care
- Excellent GCSE and A level results
- Over 90% of leavers go on to university
- Wide range of extra-curricular activities
- Special programme of Sunday activities for boarders
- Strong Sport, Music and Drama
- Extensive IT facilities

For further information, or to make an appointment to visit  
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0181 959 1176 or write to:

The Registrar, Mill Hill School, The Ridgeway,  
Mill Hill, London NW7 1QS

The School is a member of the Mill Hill Foundation, Registered Charity  
No. 310834, which exists for the education of boys and girls.



## SHERBORNE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

A boarding and day school for girls  
from 11 to 18

One of the leading girls' schools in the  
United Kingdom

Now accepts girls at 11 years of age.

Applications for Common Entrance and  
Scholarships are being accepted for entry in  
September 1997

- Specialist curriculum and pastoral care aimed specifically at this age-group
- Small classes
- Outstanding academic results
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For information:

Telephone 01935 812245

Email S-Wills@compulink.co.uk

Sherborne School for Girls, Sherborne,  
Dorset DT9 3QN

URL: <http://www.compulink.co.uk/esp/>

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Co-ed Junior (LAPS) & Senior (HMC) Schools 3 -  
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On the Threshold of Mainland Europe  
Extensive facilities on 150 acre estate

Most leavers go to university

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SCHOLARSHIPS

for high academic achievers and talented musicians  
at 8, 11 and 13 years and for Sixth Form entry.

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for children of clergy, missionaries and HM forces

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St. Lawrence College exists to provide education for  
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WHERE YOUR SON CAN ACHIEVE HIS TRUE POTENTIAL

FULL & WEEKLY BOARDING  
FULL BOARDING FEES £1525 per term

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- Strong in team games and music
- Wide range of extra-curricular activities
- Set in 150 acres of rural Shropshire
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Newport, Shropshire TF10 7BD

Tel: (01952) 810698 Fax: (01952) 812696

A registered charity which exists to provide education for children

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A SCHOOL WHICH ENCOURAGES  
INDIVIDUAL FULFILMENT

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and brings out the best in both the moderately able and  
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Our busy day pupils benefit from being part of a full  
boarding community, taking advantage of the extensive  
evening and weekend activities and the opportunity for  
supervised prep. Local parents can join in many  
aspects of School life.

The School has been co-educational and vegetarian  
since 1975. Our campus has the informal atmosphere of  
a friendly village with many fine facilities.

We are a family school - girls and boys can enter from  
age 2 upwards and there is then no barrier to Senior  
School entry. Boarders join from age 9 upwards. If you  
think your child might benefit, please phone for a  
personal tour or for details of current Open Afternoon.

Entry: 9, 11, 13 and 16 Day pupils from 2 1/2

Girls with entry results from Seven Master (Admissions Dept)

St Christopher School, Leekhampton, Herts SG6 3JZ

Tel: 01462 673391 Fax: 01462 481678

stchristopher@compulink.co.uk

1 mile from A100, 35 minutes from Kings Cross

St Christopher School is a registered charity which exists to  
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## THE ARTS EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL

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ISA Independent Boarding and Day School

Vocational training in Dance,  
Drama and Music is offered,  
together with a fine  
Academic education from  
the age of eight through  
to GCSE and 'A' level.

For further information please telephone:  
(01442) 824255

All places are available under the Charitable Trust of the Arts Educational School.  
The Trust exists as a Registered Charity to provide a vocational  
and academic education.



## Walhampton School

Lymington, Hampshire SO41 5ZG

Telephone 01590 672013

Co-Educational Boarding, Day, Pre-Preparatory & Nursery

5 - 13 years

### 1997 BURRARD ENTRY SCHOLARSHIPS

on Saturday, 8 March 1997

for children between the ages of 7 and 10

Are your child's talents being fully recognised?

Scholarship Exams are designed to discover a child's potential as  
well as knowledge

Our Academic and Music Scholarships provide financial  
assistance

Children benefit from high academic standards,  
individual attention

PLUS an extensive range of Music, Sport and  
Out-of-School Activities

For further details  
Please call the School Secretary  
on 01590-672013

Walhampton School exists to  
provide a high quality boarding & day  
education for boys & girls  
aged 5-13 years

Registered Charity No 307200



## BEDGEBURY SCHOOL

Goudhurst and Hawkhurst, Kent

Girls 11-18 full and weekly  
boarding and day

Building Confidence

Inspiring Enthusiasm

Delivering Achievement



David McMurray and Susan Elkin report from the front line of an educational sector that is changing its old image



Pupils at work and play at Benenden School in Kent, from an "essay" by the photographer Markéta Luskáčová. The school commissioned the work in an imaginative attempt to present its essential quality to parents of prospective pupils

## Boarding schools fight back

Three years ago, in an article in *The Times*, I wrote that critics of boarding education were seeking evidence of terminal illness in the number of pupils who attend boarding schools, and were anxious to read the last rites. They are still waiting; we are not.

The system is alive and not only fighting back against the effects of the recession but adapting itself in line with changes in society and the marketplace. Boarding school heads are often accused of a lack of understanding of the "real" world (whatever that is), but they have been aware for some time that they can best approach the market through marketing and improve public opinion through public relations. Some may have longed for a return to the days when a good school's reputation caused generations of mothers and daughters and fathers and sons to beat a well-trodden path to their doors, but all recognised that those days have gone for ever.

Let no one be lulled by the unchanging face of the boarding school. The products seen as the essence of the boarding school environment, or the pupils themselves, are in a state of constant change. The changing nature of the boarding school is a result of the changing needs of the parents who are its customers.

These are some of the questions that a group of boarding school heads have been addressing in informal meetings. In recent years we have witnessed many changes in the admissions process: fathers have relinquished a large part of their traditional role as the decision-makers in prospective families — first to the mothers, then to the children

themselves — and our traditional parents, one or both of whom went to a boarding school, are now outnumbered by first buyers. But could we analyse our market in finer detail?

The time seemed ripe to bring in a professional organisation to advise. The Henley Centre took on the project to examine social trends as they affect boarding: to explore boarding as a market and to review its recent commercial record — and likely future performance — on the basis of current trends.

Their findings made fascinating reading: statistics on

they understand. The Henley report highlighted various types of parent, ranging from the "ideologues" (opposed to boarding in principle) to the "traditionalists" (who would not consider anything else).

Between the two extremes are: "Anxious Parents" (I couldn't let him go, I'd miss him too much); and other groups, including "Double-income-in-a-hurry" (the busy partnerships of two hard-working parents) and "Nervous New Money" (those who can afford boarding but have no experience of it and do not know how to go about finding out).

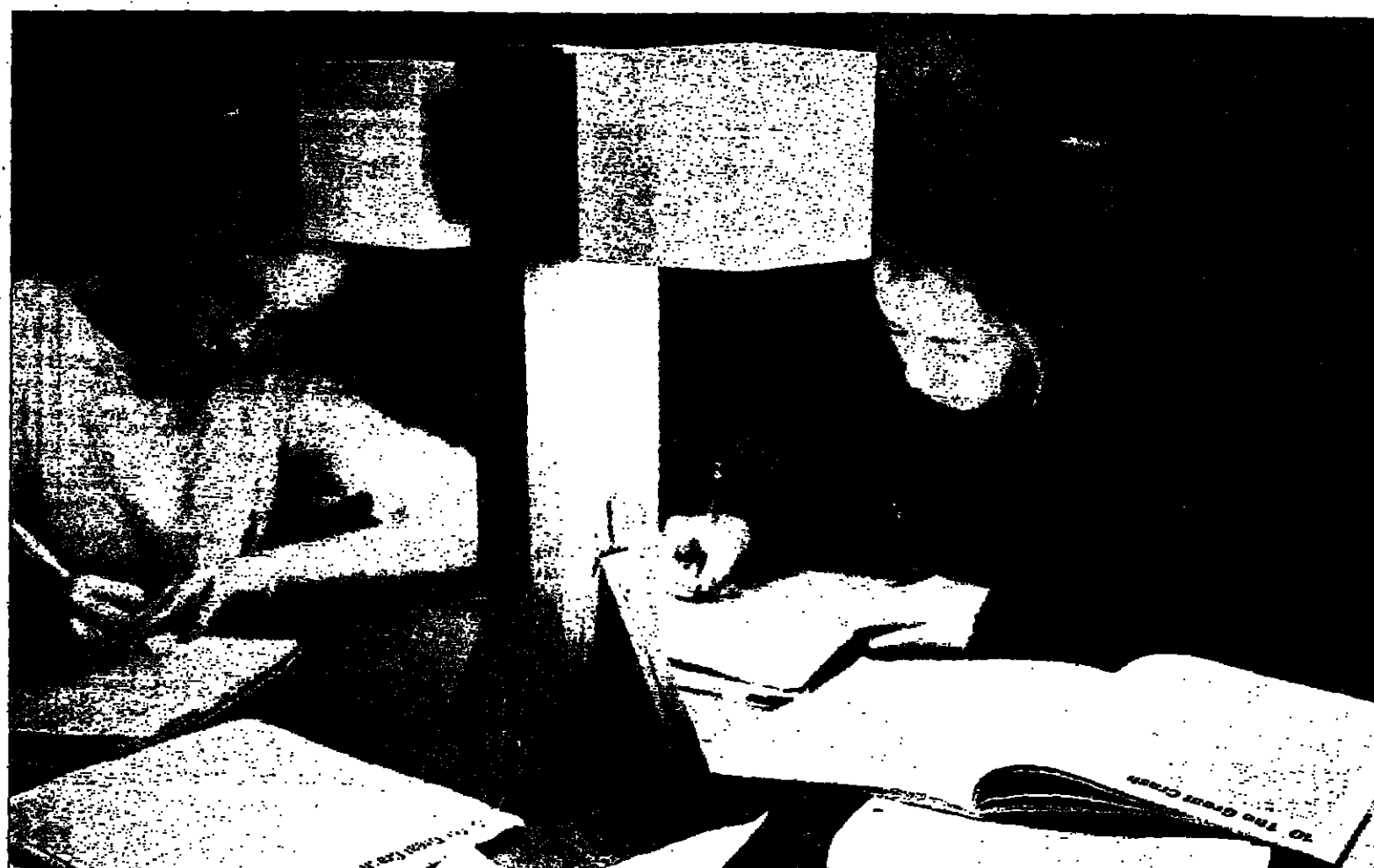
The last two are key target groups. The first is typified by a mother who told a Henley interviewer: "We are both so busy now. By the time I have dropped them at school and been to work and then picked them up again, I'm shattered. I don't have the energy to give them quality time. From that point of view, maybe boarding is a good idea. At least I would see them when I am more relaxed."

The second group is typified by the response of one father: "My daily world is tough," he said, "so I am quite competitive about giving my child the best chance I can. But I really would not know where to start."

Both of these statements ring true to me and, I am sure, to other heads. We know that boarding itself has changed; perhaps from this survey we shall be able to see more clearly how the market has changed, and develop our strategy accordingly. We have inherited marvelous facilities and noble traditions. Our challenge (and is it not everyone's today?) is to retain the best of the past while planning and adapting for the future.

DAVID McMURRAY  
The author is Headmaster of Oundle School.

Fathers have handed over the role of decision-maker to their wives and children



One of the photographs by Markéta Luskáčová. Over a three-month period of watching the students and staff at work and play, she took 25,000 shots

## Benenden puts itself in focus

Boarding has become a difficult commodity to sell. Countless television programmes and newspaper articles have highlighted the unhappiness of some boarders in previous generations. It is only the ones who loathed it who speak out, on the whole, so their voices are not representative — but it doesn't help the schools now. Boarding is also very expensive. Even some families for whom boarding school is a long tradition are turning away from it.

Yet in many ways boarding, at least for their teenage children, is the answer for a family where both parents have demanding, time-consuming jobs. The new-style boarding-school parent is often a first-time user. Lack of daily travelling and a wealth of on-site extracurricular activity are significant bonuses. It is easier, moreover, to maintain a work-orientated ethos if everyone is there in the evenings and at weekends for independent study.

Boarding houses in the 1990s tend to be cheerful, cosy places. They have certainly changed dramatically in the past 50 years. Most boarders' parents live within an hour or two of their children's school. Therefore they can pop in frequently for plays, matches, social events, meetings and birthdays.

There is no doubt that boarding — in spite of the decline in take-up numbers in recent years — has much

to offer. Schools such as Roedean, Harrow, Christ's Hospital and a few others hold firm to the notion that boarding school has a very particular character. All pupils are there continuously — although "home weekends" occur every two or three weeks, and pupils can generally take other weekends away by negotiation. The remarkable bonding between the pupils in these close-knit circumstances often lasts for the rest of their lives.

So what are boarding schools doing to woo parents? Most publish a coloured A4-sized prospectus containing information that focuses mostly on educational matters and is illustrated by rather obviously contrived photographs. It is all somewhat stereotyped. The girl or boy playing the violin is *de rigueur*. So is the shot of rugby scrum or of girl wrestling lacrosse stick. There is almost always a cosy photograph of a maternal type tucking a smiling, teddy-bear-clutching child into bed.

If you compare a selection of these bland publications, you might be forgiven for thinking they all referred

to the same school. There is little to give a parent any real sense of what any school is like. School videos that set out to portray school life on film are also often pretty wooden.

Benenden School in Kent is now trying to break that mould by providing information about boarding in a new way. After an extensive consultation of "feeder" preparatory schools and current parents as well as prospective ones, it made an interesting discovery: lifestyle bothers modern "customers" as much as, if not more than, educational matters. In a school of this type, parents think that they can take scholastic excellence for granted.

To meet this need, Benenden commissioned Markéta Luskáčová, an internationally known reportage photographer, to record school life with her camera. She spent many days at the school over a three-month period last summer, wandering into classrooms, boarding houses, services, ceremonies, meetings, kitchens, meals and the leafy grounds,

and took a remarkable 25,000 frames. Debra Price, the development director at Benenden, says: "We all became so used to her being about that in the end no one took any notice. There was no camera-consciousness. Markéta ended up with a genuine slice of Benenden life."

The result is a stylish black-and-white photographic essay in A3 format that captures the reality of a girls' boarding school in the Kentish countryside. None of the 58 pictures is posed. Photographs are grouped to form a visual answer to questions such as "Will she be happy?" and "When will I see her?", which were identified as parents' key anxieties by CDT, the design consultancy that worked with Benenden on the project. There is a lovely shot of a girl in a textiles lesson being shown how to mend something. Parents dance the conga on the lawn. Two girls are at the riding stables. Another picture shows the delight and concentration of a music lesson.

Will Benenden's initiative spur other boarding schools faced with the problem of a shrinking market into trying to make their publicity material more communicative? Anything that helps more parents to make better informed decisions can only be a good thing.

SUSAN ELKIN

## BOARDING SCHOOLS



### BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Founded 1553 Re-Endowed 1693

Upper School (BMC, 13-18) 695 pupils, Lower School (IAPS, 7-13) 425 pupils, Pre-Preparatory, (3-7) 140 pupils

BOARDING AND DAY, BOYS AND GIRLS

Building for the Future on the Foundations of the Past

Bromsgrove School is a boarding school with a strong sense of its history but with a very modern outlook. Situated in North Worcestershire, it stands on an attractive 100 acre site. Since 1990 £7million has been spent improving facilities and a further £1million per annum is planned for the next five years. The School's intention is to provide a wealth of opportunities for its pupils, enabling each child to develop his or her talents to the full. The School's investment in the most up-to-date facilities and equipment plus its effective system of pastoral care for the individual have been the cornerstones of success in a range of areas: academic, cultural and sporting.

Recent additions to the School: 1991 Technology Block for Lower School, 1994 Library & Resource Building for Upper School, 1995 new Lower School classroom block with library plus extension to Assembly Hall and Dining Hall, 1996 Sports Hall for Lower School, upgraded boarding accommodation in Upper School, Floodlit All Weather Athletics Track, extension to Mathematics and Modern Languages departments opening February 1997, Upgraded Science Laboratories 1996-1997.

Other features of the School: excellent success at GCSE and 'A' level - 'A' level pass rate 94% (50% at A & B), GCSE pass rate 96% (40% A\* & A); 96% of pupils go on to university; teacher/pupil ratio 1:10; superb information technology equipment and facilities, fine sports facilities, including indoor swimming pool, floodlit tennis courts and Astro turf, sports complex and athletics track; modern and recently refurbished boarding accommodation.

Scholarships, Music Scholarships, Forces' Bursaries  
Bursaries for pupils with special talents - Academic, Sport, Music, Arts  
Plus Government Assisted Places

For further information write or phone: Mr. T. M. Taylor M.A., Bromsgrove School, Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. B61 7DU. Tel. 01527 579679; Facsimile 01527 576177; E-mail: admissions@bromlow.demon.co.uk

Bromsgrove School is a registered charity (No. 521450) established for the purpose of education.

### PORTLAND PLACE SCHOOL

56-58 Portland Place  
London W1N 3DG

Scholarships for  
1997 entry

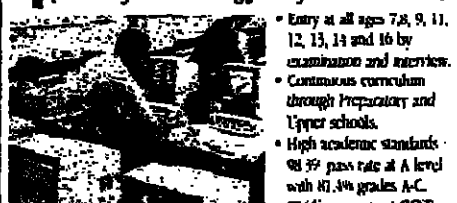
Independent mixed  
school 11-18 years

Tel 0171 507 8700



### Bedford School

(BMC Day and Boarding for Boys - Founded in 1527)



with 51.2% A\* or A grade and 84.8% grades A\* - B.

• Excellent facilities include new Design Technology suite, school wide network of workstations, computers, purpose built Theatre, Auditorium.

• A wide range of opportunities for Music, Art and Drama. Sports to local, national and international level. A strong Combined Cadet Force and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme along with numerous other activities many in conjunction with Bedford High School for Girls & The Dame Alice Harper School for Girls.

• A caring boarding environment with a newly built Junior Boarding House and six Senior Boarding Houses.

For prospectuses and other information, contact Mrs Christine Fox, The Registrar's Secretary, Bedford School, De Parys Avenue, Bedford, MK44 2TJ. Tel 01234 340444 Fax 01234 340950 Bedford School's objective is to provide high quality education for boys aged 7-18. Charity Number 204617

## Looking for a good boarding school?



## There's more choice in York

High calibre teaching staff, small classes, individual care and attention. A wide range of extra-curricular activities. Young people who spend their schooldays with us gain all these - as well as something special from this historic city and the superb countryside around it.

If you would like to find out more, please call

**TEL: 01524 735977**

and we will send you details

Good boarding schools around York are: Ampleforth College, Ampleforth College Junior School, Bootham School, The Mount School, Pocklington School, Queen Margaret's School, Queen Mary's School, Read School, St. Martin's School, St. Olave's School, St. Peter's School, Terrington Hall and Woodleigh School.

These registered charities exist to provide education for school children.



## BOARDING SCHOOLS

SHREWSBURY  
SCHOOLSixth Form Entry  
ACADEMIC  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
1997

Applications are invited from bright boys who want to take advantage of wider opportunities and first class teaching to obtain the highest standard at 'A' level.

A limited number of government assisted places are available.

Please write for details, quoting reference T to:  
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Shropshire SY5 7BA. Tel: 01743 344537

Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity Dedicated to Education Number - 828413

STONAR  
SCHOOL

Independent School for Girls

ACADEMIC, RIDING,  
MUSIC AND ART  
SCHOLARSHIPS.

For entry into Junior, Senior  
and Sixth Form, contact:

The Registrar,  
Stonar School, Atworth  
Nr. Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 8NT  
Tel: 01225 792309  
Fax: 01225 798330

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travelling the world in ...

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The Times

And being educated at ...

"An utterly wonderful Prep School"  
The Good Schools Guide

St John's College offers Choristerships  
covering more than two thirds of the  
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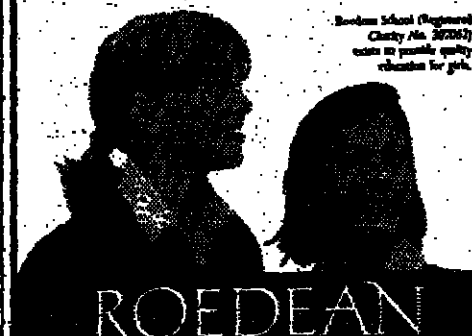
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# Mums and dads need to figure it out

Last week's report placing Britain last of seven countries for numeracy trained the spotlight once more on mathematics in schools. Parents want to help their children, but often do not know where to turn. Schools are the obvious starting point, but their attitude to parents varies. Often the sort of questions parents really want to ask are not received with open arms. Sadly, too, parents often complain that "it's all different now" and ask "Why don't they teach them maths properly these days?" One even claimed the school was teaching his son wrongly.

Parents should try to understand the background issues, then they can make sense of what is being said and be able to ask intelligently about their child's maths education. Examining a few of the more common questions should provide some helpful information.

What about the parent who claimed the school was teaching his son wrongly? This startling claim came because the father had been taught to subtract differently. Not having seen any other method of subtracting, he concluded that the school's method was incorrect and told his child. Who is the child to believe, home or school?

This is not new. 35 years ago, my husband and I were taught to subtract differently, as were my mother and father a generation earlier. There are two main methods of subtracting, a fact that, strangely, is not widely known. They have been taught side by side

## Parents are the ones who need help with maths lessons, says Rosemary Russell

for years. (Try asking friends, relatives and work colleagues of all ages to do a subtraction, for example 302-167, and see for yourself.)

Parents must realise that there is often more than one valid way of approaching a maths problem. Their way is not wrong and neither is the school's. In this light, there can be a partnership and respect between school and parent, rather than a confrontation. I showed this particular parent how both methods of subtraction worked. He then realised the school was not teaching his son incorrectly.

The same problem might arise if a pupil changes schools to one that uses the other method of subtraction. This happened to another pupil I taught. He was referred to me for tuition about five years later with his maths in ruins; at last, he confessed that he had never understood what was happening at the new school.

Some parents try to help by teaching the method they learnt themselves, and end up only confusing the child. Glancing at parents' helping their children with a process as basic as subtraction shows the need for bridge-building

mathematical understanding grows, enabling you to explore beyond what you have been taught.

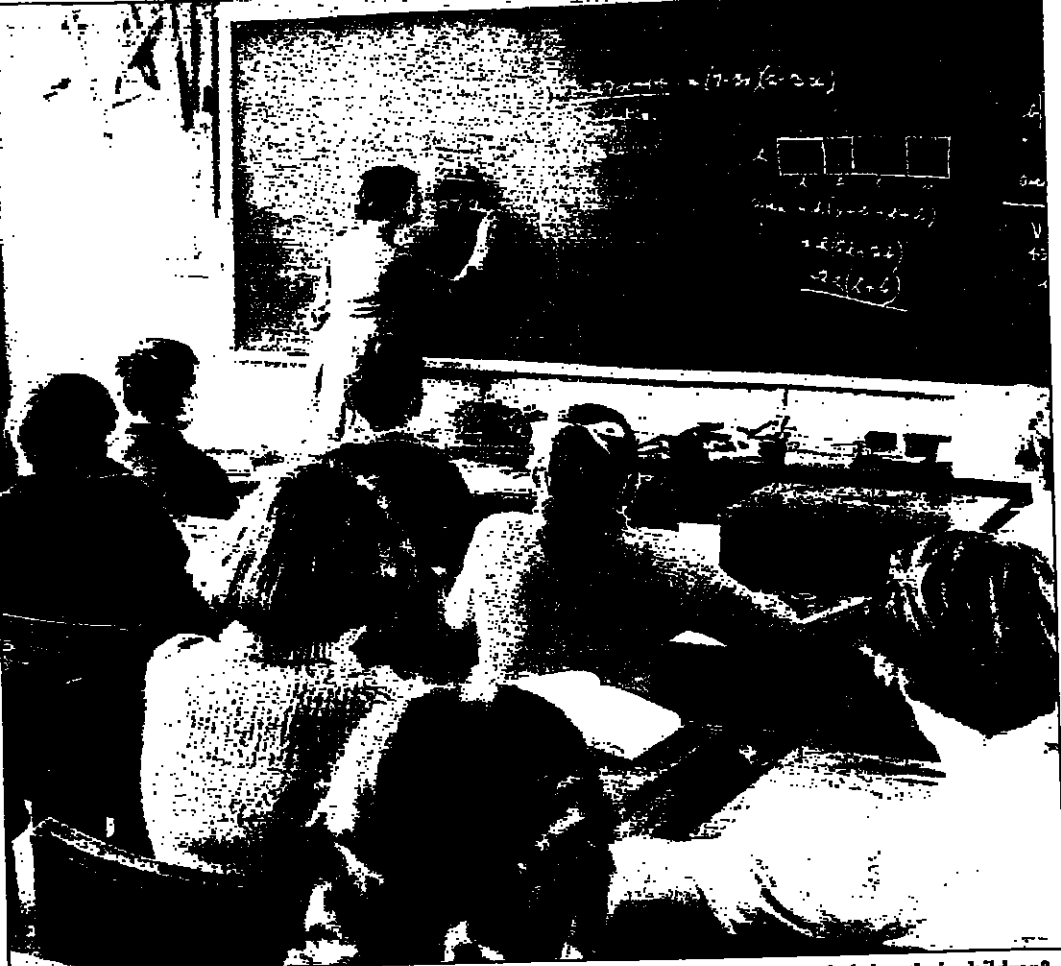
The two approaches are not incompatible. Once you understand the principles, they may safely be encapsulated in what may look like rote procedures.

The maths questions used in GCSE and national curriculum tests are often related to everyday situations, but the maths involved may not be straightforward. The questions are often set in a form that students have not encountered before; they cannot automatically know what to do. They have to think around the question, working it out for themselves.

Parents may find the methods their children use seem long-winded. However, these parents might not be able to explain why their own methods work or what they are doing. One disadvantage of learning with understanding is that teachers need to have a good grasp and understanding of basic processes. Hence the calls from some quarters for more specialists at the primary level.

It would be marvellous if teachers and parents together took an adult look at maths. I believe both would be in for surprises as they try to find some common ground.

Rosemary Russell is the author of *Maths for Parents* (Piccadilly Press £5.99) and is researching *Parents Helping Their Children With Maths* at Exeter University. She is a contributor to *Count Me In*, the BBC's numeracy campaign.



How it was for many parents: but is their knowledge out of date when it comes to helping their children?

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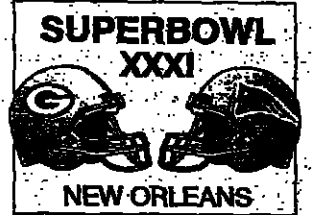


# Oliver Holt on the boy from the backwoods tracking Super Bowl glory Finding Favre in heart of the South

The buses carrying the pilgrims would fly out of New Orleans in a convoy. They pass the Mississippi River far below, dirty brown and littered with leviathans of container ships, and cross Lake Pontchartrain on a low, arching bridge that seems to go on for ever. Six miles later they leave Louisiana behind.

After an hour they trip off the interstate and on to smaller roads, roads to nowhere. For a few more miles they stare out at the pines and the clearings in the forest, at the bays that hide alligators and water snakes. Then a sign appears and they point their cameras. "Welcome to Kiln, Mississippi," it reads. "Home of Brett Favre".

There are no McDonald's restaurants or Waffle Houses in Kiln, no Staples, Shoe Source, no Wal-Mart, none of the usual landmarks of small-



town America. Dolly's Quick Stop, a petrol station-convenience store on the corner of the only crossroads in town, sells corn dogs, fried chicken and spicy sausage, and outside a furtive black dog stalks around for scraps.

The pilgrims, though, head for Rooster's Restaurant and Deli, a few hundred yards farther on. A thick-set man with a crew cut and a bulging red neck is waiting inside. People are gathering round him and the camera lights are already trained on his square face, teasing beads of sweat from his forehead. He is Brett Favre's father.

Irvin Favre talks for a few minutes about the days when he was Brett's high school coach, when, even though he had his son in the team, a son who is now the best quarterback in the National Football League (NFL) and American football's new superstar, he insisted on playing a running game. "I wasn't running that team just so I could showcase Brett Favre," he said.

Then the guest moves on, this search for Brett Favre that is peopled by those who want to know more about the man who will lead Green Bay Packers into the Super Bowl against New England Patriots on Sunday, who want to look beyond the purple lenses of the



Favre demonstrates the passing prowess that has thrown the Packers into the Super Bowl spotlight in New Orleans. Photograph: Lee Celano

sun-glasses that he has taken to wearing at his press conferences this week as award falls into his lap and adds to his growing legend.

His statistics and achievements tell one side of the story, the two consecutive most valuable player in the NFL awards, his number of touchdowns this season that has exceeded the amount of any other quarterback save for Dan Marino, the fact that crowds mob him wherever he goes. The other side, though, is rooted here in the Deep South. This is where Brett Favre's spirit comes from, the indomitable spirit that is turning him into an American hero.

It was about a mile from Rooster's where Favre crashed his car six years ago and was so badly injured that he had to have a large part of his small intestine removed. The doctors said that he might just be able to play again before the end of the year. One month after the operation he led the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) to a famous victory over Alabama.

He is a hard young man from a family still battling against adversity. Last August his eldest brother was charged with drink-driving after a train ran into his car, killing his passenger. In September his younger sister drove a car that was involved in a drive-by shooting and is on probation for her part in the incident.

Favre himself is overcoming an addiction to painkillers. "I have had a lot of good times this year," he said recently, "but there sure have been some lows to go with them."

As the pilgrims file out, past the library that is decked out in Packers' gold and green, past the signs that say "Go Brett", Irvin is busy telling stragglers that that is what is important about his son. "He has got a big heart," he said, "he just won't quit."

Nobody bothers to sample any of the catfish and fries, shrimp and fries, chicken and fries or grilled ribeye that make up the entire menu. They get back on the buses. An hour later they make their second and final stop in

Hattiesburg, 40 miles to the north. They get out next to the small USM stadium on the outskirts of the city and walk up some stairs into a room where a group of young men are talking in a corner. These are the men from the next stage of Favre's life, his room-mate at USM, the player who caught his first touchdown pass.

One is a computer analyst now, the other a delivery driver for a parcel firm. Then there is the recruiter who had to fight and cajole to persuade his bosses at the university that Favre was a worthy target for their attention because his father would let him throw the ball only three or four times each game. "When I first saw him," Mark McHale said, "I saw a slow, white boy handing the ball off to a running back. I was on the point of giving up when he threw a rocket to a poor receiver and it nearly put a hole in his chest. It had fire coming off it and I thought

"This boy has got a golden arm." Chris Ryals, his room-mate, was next up. "To tell the truth," he said, "there weren't that many people on campus who liked Brett in his freshman year here. He was like the eighth-string quarterback, but he was still kind of cocky."

"He was more than just a player, though. He was the leader. I have never seen anyone hate to lose so much. Perhaps it was something to do with where he came from. That place is nowhere. I used to call him The Legend of the Swamp. They have got mosquitoes there that could tear your arm off."

Then they sink into a reverie and talk about how proud they were when Favre was drafted by Atlanta Falcons, when he was traded to Green Bay, when he helped to lead the Packers past the old giants of

American Football, such as San Francisco 49ers, all the way to the Super Bowl, where they are prohibitive favourites to beat the Patriots — and all in New Orleans, too.

By then, back in the Big Easy, Favre is busy accepting another accolade, the NFL player-of-the-year award. In Kiln, they watch him talking about home on the television.

"I was going to go over and eat with my family this week," he said in a southern drawl hardened by years in Green Bay, "but, after talking to them, I decided not to. It's going crazy up there, kind of like Graceland. People are even paying 20 bucks to see where I went to school. The thing is, I haven't even done close to what a lot of other players have done yet. If I had, I guess I'd be bigger than Elvis."

## SPORTS LETTERS

### Safety first for terrace return

From the Shadow Minister for Sport

Sir, It is important to correct some of the points raised by Simon Barnes's *Midweek View* ("Football will not stand for return to terraces", January 22).

For a start, the headline is wrong. The point is that it is pressure from within football that has put terraces back on the agenda, in the context of Labour's proposed task force for football. The pressure comes from their concern that all-seater grounds have less atmosphere and that many supporters are being priced out of the game.

Barnes's extraordinary suggestion that seats have priced hooligans out of the ground is offensive to decent supporters who love the game, but can no longer afford to go and watch.

Our task force proposal, which has been endorsed by those who administer the game, will give all of football's participants — from the FA through to the supporters — a voice on its future.

I have consistently stated

that terracing will be considered only once the safety factor is ensured. A new engineering development suggests that may be possible.

I have also made it clear that I do not advocate a return to the days of huge terraces dominating our football grounds. Safe terracing may be worth considering in terms of small standing areas in redeveloped grounds or at lower-division clubs.

Finally, Barnes laments the involvement of politicians in sport. He should remember that politicians led vital sports-related campaigns against, for example, football identity cards, and it was politicians who created the Football Trust to assist clubs with ground development.

Barnes is entitled to his view that politicians should keep away from sport, but what about the supporters who initiate this debate: should they keep out of it, too?

Yours sincerely,  
TOM PENDRY,  
Shadow Minister for Sport,  
House of Commons.

### Hard on Henman

From Mr D. A. Wilby

Sir, As a reasonable-minded tennis enthusiast, I suspect I was not alone in being appalled by the tone of Michael Henderson's report on Tim Henman's defeat by Michael Chang in the Australian Open (January 18). To call him a failure for losing to the world No 2, who, in the opinion of many experts, is playing some of the best tennis of his career and who has vastly more experience in grand slam tournaments, is unwarranted.

In recent weeks Henman has played and beaten several highly ranked players, including Goran Ivanisevic, the world No 3, and Carlos Moya, whom he comprehensively beat in the final of the Sydney Open and who has now beaten Chang in the semi-finals of the Australian Open.

Of course, we all wanted Henman to win against Chang, but there is no disgrace in losing to a player of his quality.

In the past year Henman has risen with great speed through the ranks of the professional game and we should all be proud of what he

has achieved in such a short time. Hopefully, it will not be long before he becomes the first British male, since the game went open, to break into the top ten.

Henman said that he had had "a bad day at the office" when playing Chang — perhaps Henderson will concede a similar malaise when he composed his report.

Yours faithfully,  
DENNIS A. WILBY,  
Orchard House,  
Glestone,  
Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

### Victims of war

From Mr D. J. W. Bridge

Sir, With reference to John Hopkins's "Farewell, old fruit, we're sad to see you go" (front page, January 18), may I point out, for the sake of historical accuracy, that at half-time in the rugby union match between Harlequins and Oxford University in 1946, the *British Movietone News* sports commentator said on air: "Both sides are sucking oranges, lemons not being available owing to wartime shortages."

Yours faithfully,  
D. J. W. BRIDGE (Oxford University RFC, 1946-48),  
Long Acre,  
Tinnys Lane,  
Sherborne, Dorset.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN,  
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Last week I mentioned that one thing needed to make a slam is enough strength. But what do I mean by enough strength? There are three possibilities:

- a) enough points, or
- b) enough fit and distribution, to plan to establish suits or to cross-ruff, or
- c) at least one long suit.

This week I will look hands with plenty of points. Average players tend to overbid such hands. Really balanced hands (i.e. with no five-card or longer suit) need a full 33/34 points to make a small slam a good proposition. An example:

|      |      |
|------|------|
| AK6  | QJ75 |
| AQJ4 | K2   |
| K97  | Q105 |
| K52  | A43  |

West knows that his partner has 20-22 points. He simply adds his 13 to 20, comes up with the answer of 33 and jumps to slam. Had he had only a good 11 or 12 points, he would simply have raised to 4NT, asking his partner to bid on with a maximum. Just because you have 33 or more points, however, doesn't necessarily mean that you can make your slam in top tricks. On the hand below you have points to spare, but you still need to play carefully.

|      |      |
|------|------|
| KQ3  | AJ4  |
| Q74  | AK3  |
| Q63  | AK4  |
| AJ64 | K972 |

West 1NT East 5NT

West's 1NT shows 12-14 points, so East adds the minimum of 12 points to his own 22 and arrives at 34; hence he can jump to 6NT. In fact, East-West have a combined 36 points but the unfortunate duplication of distribution means that there are only eleven tricks on top. But if you recognise that club holding — a third club trick can be guaranteed. Win whatever North leads, cash the ace of clubs and lead a club towards dummy's K97. If North shows out, play the king and lead towards your jack for your twelfth trick; if North follows with the queen or ten, win the king and knock out the other honour. If North follows small, play the nine — if South wins the suit has broken 3-2 and the extra trick is easy.

Macallan's International Pairs. After seven of the fifteen rounds the European champions Lorenzo Lauria and Alfredo Versace have established a convincing lead. Standings: 1. Lauria and Versace (Italy) 333 VPs; 2. Nickell and Freeman (USA) 251 VPs; 3. Mouel and Mutton (France) 249 VPs; 4. Auker and Blackett (Denmark) 240 VPs; 5. Mahmood and Chagas (USA and Brazil) 231 VPs; 6. Hamman and Wolff (USA) 228 VPs; 7. Omar Sharif and Mari (France) 215 VPs.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE,  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

**Victory for Adams**  
Michael Adams, Great Britain's No 2 grandmaster, has returned to form with a 4½-1½ match victory against Ivan Morovic of Chile.

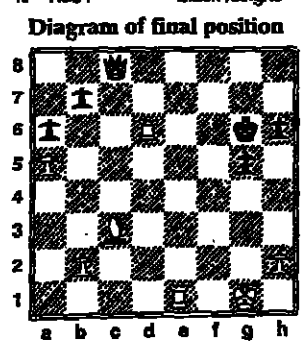
The fifth game, shown today, clinched the match for Adams. Although reams of analysis have been devoted to the main highways of the Sicilian Defence (which Morovic employs here), Adams demonstrates that there is still plenty of poison in the relatively unexplored sidelines, one of which (6. Bd3) he adopts here.

After a complex middle-game, in which Black sacrificed a pawn to increase his piece activity, Adams had to part with his queen, but, in compensation, received the more than adequate material balance of rook, knight and bishop. When further material gains for White became inevitable, Morovic conceded.

White: Michael Adams  
Black: Ivan Morovic  
Santiago, January 1997  
Sicilian Defence

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| 1. e4   | d5   |
| 2. Nf3  | cxd4 |
| 3. g4   | Nf6  |
| 4. Nxd4 | Nf6  |
| 5. Nc3  | e6   |
| 6. Bd3  | a6   |
| 7. Nde2 | h6   |
| 8. 0-0  | Bc7  |
| 9. e4   | Nc6  |
| 10. Nf1 | Bd7  |
| 11. Kf1 | Rc8  |
| 12. Bc3 | Rc8  |
| 13. Qc1 | Nd4  |
| 14. a5  | Bc6  |

15 Ng3 d5  
16 Bc5 dxc4  
17 Bc4 d7  
18 Nf1 Rc8  
19 Rd1 Qe8  
20 Bb6 Qe7  
21 Nc7+ Qe7  
22 Qc4 Bc6  
23 Rd4 Bc6  
24 Qe6 Qd8  
25 Rg1 Qd8  
26 Qf4 Qc5  
27 Qf5 Qc5  
28 Rf2 Qc7  
29 Qd1 Qc7  
30 Bc5 Qc4  
31 Rf7+ Qc4  
32 Bb4 Rf2  
33 Rd4 Rf2+  
34 Rg2 Rf1+  
35 Rg1 Qc8+  
36 Rd5 Rf1+  
37 Rf5 Qc7  
38 R5d4 Qf7  
39 Kc2 Qf5  
40 Rf1 Qc2+  
41 Rf2 Qc6  
42 Nc5 Qc1+  
43 Kp1 Qc1+  
44 Rf1 Qc8  
45 Nf6+ Qc8  
46 Re1 Qc8  
47 Bc2 Qc8  
48 Rd6+ Black resigns



Raymond Keene writes Monday to Friday in Sport and in Weekend on Saturday.

## By Philip Howard

**ADIPOUS**  
a. One-footed  
b. F2  
c. The Doric Oedipus

**ANENTEROUS**  
a. Cavernous  
b. Without an intestine  
c. Cowardly

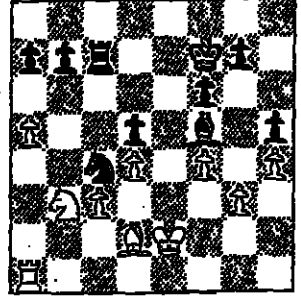
**BARBARA**  
a. Logical jargon  
b. A virago  
c. An Alpine creeper

**BRAGLY**  
a. Boastfully  
b. Bracken and gorse  
c. Ostentatiously

Answers on page 50

## By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Yudasin — Hubner, Groningen, 1993. Black has a clear advantage in this endgame as his knight has a fine outpost on e4 and his pieces are much more active than White's. His accurate next move forced the win of material. What did he play?



Solution on page 50

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## RUGBY UNION

□ **EMERGING WALES** (v Ireland A, Ponty-  
 pridd, January 31). M Black (Swansea); S  
 Hill (Cardiff); L Davies (Cardiff); N Davies  
 (Llanelli, captain); D James (Bridgend); S  
 Connor (Newport); A Moore (Richmond); A  
 Lewis (Cardiff); B Williams (Neath); J  
 Davies (Neath); A Gibbs (Llanelli); V  
 Cooper (Llanelli); P Arnold (Swansea); K  
 Jones (Ebbw Vale); D McIntosh (Ponty-  
 pridd) Replacements: J Thomas (Cardiff);  
 B Hayward (Ebbw Vale); H Harries  
 (Harlequins); C Wyatt (Llanelli); S John  
 (Harlequins); R M Gwynne (Llanelli)

"I know this is only the launch, but I feel good," he said. "We are here to win the title again and if we do not we will not have succeeded."

Moneghetti, the Commonwealth champion, from Australia, has been runner-up twice in London. Pinto, from Portugal, won it in 1992. Paul Evans, Richard Nerurkar and Eamonn Martin will represent Britain in the men's race, while Liz McColgan, the defending champion, and Marian Sutton will lead the domestic women's entry.

**Badminton:** Darren Hall is seeded No.1 in the draw announced yesterday for the English singles championship at Norwich the weekend after next and is expected to extend his record of titles to nine.

England have been drawn in pool B with Austria, Slovakia and Belarus, all relatively unknown opponents.

Maggie Souvay, the English coach, has assembled her team with the primary intention of hardening them for the future. The opponents may not be strong, but England still have to obtain the results if they are to progress in the competition.

□ The annual university match between Oxford and Cambridge is to be played at Milton Keynes for the first time, on March 11. The choice of Milton Keynes has been made at the request of the universities themselves, for prestige reasons and reflects no discredit on Reading, which has been a popular venue since 1981.



RACING: RULING COMPLICATES PLANS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF LONG-HAUL CHALLENGERS

# Stansted grounded by bureaucracy

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A BUREAUCRATIC tangle involving Brussels and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) has led to Stansted being banned from accepting flights carrying any animals, including horses, from outside the European Union (EU).

The banning of the Essex airport, which came into effect on January 1, will mean horses or cattle destined for England from "third countries" such as the United States, Canada, Australia and Dubai, will probably have to land first in Ireland, France or Holland, before being flown or ferried by boat to this country, causing unnecessary stress and added expense.

The ruling, which has provoked uproar among transporters and MPs, could have a serious impact on breeders' plans for sending horses to and from the US. Godolphin's arrangements for transporting horses back from Dubai and breeders' Cup arrangements.

Although aircraft carrying animals from outside the EU can land at Luton and Heathrow, practical reasons effectively rule out long haul flights to both airports. Luton's runway is too short for aircraft with cargo and fuel to return to the US, for example, without refuelling on the way, thereby making it uneconomical.

Heathrow is too busy, with Stansted's proximity to Newmarket means scheduled flights carrying horses had

been arriving six days a week from the US. About 20 DC8s, carrying 45 horses each, entered through the airport last year, with more planned in 1997. Up to six charters from the Middle East were scheduled for March, April and May and two 747 cattle charters were due to arrive from Canada within the next four weeks.

The ban follows the introduction of an EU regulation requiring proper facilities for the inspection of animals by vets at airports, including a building complete with offices.

**Nap: HAILE DERRING**  
(2.50 Utopia)

**Next best: Little Martina**  
(2.45 Folkstone)

showers and drainage. Inspection at Stansted has normally taken place on the tarmac.

Tony Astor, cargo manager at Stansted, said yesterday that the airport submitted plans last February to the EU via MAFF (acting as its UK agent) for approval to build the necessary border inspection post and in June an EU commissioner visited Stansted.

Astor said: "He looked at the plans we had submitted, until that point he hadn't seen the plans. He made one or two minor comments and suggested a few alterations. We immediately revised the plans.

sent them back to MAFF for onward transmission to the EU and said we must have something in writing from them saying if the plans were acceptable."

During his visit, the commissioner said he would press the EU to reply to the application. However, between June and December Astor made several attempts via MAFF and EU to get a response, but heard nothing until MAFF decided recently to delist Stansted as an approved port for importation of animals from third countries.

"It was quite a surprise," Astor said yesterday. "We are unable to accept inbound animals or animal by-products, such as embryos and semen from non-EU states."

The decision has infuriated horse transporters who point the finger of blame firmly at MAFF and the EU. Sean Shelley, chairman of the Racehorse Transporters' Association, said yesterday: "This just cannot be allowed to happen. It is red tape and bureaucracy gone mad, and the potential repercussions are horrendous."

John Greenway, Conservative MP for Ryedale and chairman of the all-party rural and bloodstock industry committee, said: "This is quite appalling and must be changed. I was alerted inside the past 24 hours and will do my utmost to get this resolved by ministers as soon as possible. Stansted must be reinstated immediately."



Horses outside the European Union will be disallowed from flying directly to Stansted

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GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

**1.15 BRANKS FOOD SERVICES HANDICAP**  
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GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

**1.50 ADDISON OF NEWPORT HANDICAP**  
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1-10: 1.15 Ben Dun. 1.50 The Captain's Wish. 2.20 Dan Of O'Brien. 2.50 Haile Derring. 3.25 Sella Jim. 3.55 Wanda Lark.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

**COURSE SPECIALISTS**  
1.15 Ben Dun. 1.50 The Captain's Wish. 2.20 Dan Of O'Brien. 2.50 Haile Derring. 3.25 Sella Jim. 3.55 Wanda Lark.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

**Wetherby**  
1.15 Ben Dun. 1.50 The Captain's Wish. 2.20 Dan Of O'Brien. 2.50 Haile Derring. 3.25 Sella Jim. 3.55 Wanda Lark.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

**Huntingdon**  
1.15 Ben Dun. 1.50 The Captain's Wish. 2.20 Dan Of O'Brien. 2.50 Haile Derring. 3.25 Sella Jim. 3.55 Wanda Lark.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

**Lingfield Park**  
1.15 Ben Dun. 1.50 The Captain's Wish. 2.20 Dan Of O'Brien. 2.50 Haile Derring. 3.25 Sella Jim. 3.55 Wanda Lark.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

**Wincanton**  
1.15 Ben Dun. 1.50 The Captain's Wish. 2.20 Dan Of O'Brien. 2.50 Haile Derring. 3.25 Sella Jim. 3.55 Wanda Lark.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

**Doncaster**  
1.15 Ben Dun. 1.50 The Captain's Wish. 2.20 Dan Of O'Brien. 2.50 Haile Derring. 3.25 Sella Jim. 3.55 Wanda Lark.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

**Folkstone**  
1.15 Ben Dun. 1.50 The Captain's Wish. 2.20 Dan Of O'Brien. 2.50 Haile Derring. 3.25 Sella Jim. 3.55 Wanda Lark.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

**Southwell**  
1.15 Ben Dun. 1.50 The Captain's Wish. 2.20 Dan Of O'Brien. 2.50 Haile Derring. 3.25 Sella Jim. 3.55 Wanda Lark.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

**Doncaster**  
1.15 Ben Dun. 1.50 The Captain's Wish. 2.20 Dan Of O'Brien. 2.50 Haile Derring. 3.25 Sella Jim. 3.55 Wanda Lark.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

**Folkstone**  
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GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

**Southwell**  
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GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

**Doncaster**  
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GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

**Folkstone**  
1.15 Ben Dun. 1.50 The Captain's Wish. 2.20 Dan Of O'Brien. 2.50 Haile Derring. 3.25 Sella Jim. 3.55 Wanda Lark.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

**Southwell**  
1.15 Ben Dun. 1.50 The Captain's Wish. 2.20 Dan Of O'Brien. 2.50 Haile Derring. 3.25 Sella Jim. 3.55 Wanda Lark.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

**Doncaster**  
1.15 Ben Dun. 1.50 The Captain's Wish. 2.20 Dan Of O'Brien. 2.50 Haile Derring. 3.25 Sella Jim. 3.55 Wanda Lark.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

## DONCASTER

**THUNDERER**  
1.00 Past Master. 2.35 Hurricane Lamp. 3.10 Puritan. 3.40 God Speed You. 4.10 My Buster.

### GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (OFF 6.5) Mrs D. Roberts. P. H. 12-0. 8 West (7) 88  
Racecard number: 50. 101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (OFF 6.5) Mrs D. Roberts. P. H. 12-0. 8 West (7) 88  
Going: 101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (OFF 6.5) Mrs D. Roberts. P. H. 12-0. 8 West (7) 88

### GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

#### 1.00 SELBY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,157; 2m 110yd) (10 runners)  
1-10: 1.00 Selby Conditional Jockeys Novices Handicap Hurdle. 2.35 Hurricane Lamp. 3.10 Puritan. 3.40 God Speed You. 4.10 My Buster.

Long Handicap: 1.00 Selby Conditional Jockeys Novices Handicap Hurdle. 2.35 Hurricane Lamp. 3.10 Puritan. 3.40 God Speed You. 4.10 My Buster.

BETTING: 7-2 Selby. 2-1 Hurricane Lamp. 5-2 Puritan. 7-1 God Speed You. 8-1 My Buster.

#### FORM FOCUS

WILLY STAR best effort last time when he won the 1.00 Selby Conditional Jockeys Novices Handicap Hurdle. He is a good horse and should be in the money.

#### 1.35 BALBY NOVICES CHASE (23,600; 2m 110yd) (5 runners)

1-5: 1.35 Balby Novices Chase. 2.35 Hurricane Lamp. 3.10 Puritan. 3.40 God Speed You. 4.10 My Buster.

BETTING: 7-2 Balby. 2-1 Hurricane Lamp. 5-2 Puritan. 7-1 God Speed You. 8-1 My Buster.

#### FORM FOCUS

GOLDEN HELLO best effort last time when he won the 1.35 Balby Novices Chase. He is a good horse and should be in the money.

#### 2.05 CUSWORTH NOVICES HURDLE (23,335; 3m 110yd) (17 runners)

1-17: 2.05 Cusworth Novices Hurdle. 2.35 Hurricane Lamp. 3.10 Puritan. 3.40 God Speed You. 4.10 My Buster.

BETTING: 7-2 Cusworth. 2-1 Hurricane Lamp. 5-2 Puritan. 7-1 God Speed You. 8-1 My Buster.

#### FORM FOCUS

CLEVER BOY best effort last time when he won the 2.05 Cusworth Novices Hurdle. He is a good horse and should be in the money.

#### 2.35 ROSSINGTON MAIN NOVICES HURDLE (Grade 1; £9,731; 2m 110yd) (6 runners)

1-6: 2.35 Rostington Main Novices Hurdle. 2.35 Hurricane Lamp. 3.10 Puritan. 3.40 God Speed You. 4.10 My Buster.

BETTING: 7-2 Rostington. 2-1 Hurricane Lamp. 5-2 Puritan. 7-1 God Speed You. 8-1 My Buster.

#### FORM FOCUS

ALZULU best effort last time when he won the 2.35 Rostington Main Novices Hurdle. He is a good horse and should be in the money.

#### 3.10 DONCASTER SPONSORSHIP CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (24,598; 2m 110yd) (4 runners)

1-4: 3.10 Doncaster Sponsorship Club Handicap Chase. 2.35 Hurricane Lamp. 3.10 Puritan. 3.40 God Speed You. 4.10 My Buster.

BETTING: 7-2 Doncaster. 2-1 Hurricane Lamp. 5-2 Puritan. 7-1 God Speed You. 8-1 My Buster.

#### FORM FOCUS

LINDSEY LOTTO best effort last time when he won the 3.10 Doncaster Sponsorship Club Handicap Chase. He is a good horse and should be in the money.

#### 3.40 SANDALL BEAT NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (23,615; 3m) (6 runners)

1-6: 3.40 Sandall Beat Novices Handicap Chase. 2.35 Hurricane Lamp. 3.10 Puritan. 3.40 God Speed You. 4.10 My Buster.

BETTING: 7-2 Sandall. 2-1 Hurricane Lamp. 5-2 Puritan. 7-1 God Speed You. 8-1 My Buster.

#### FORM FOCUS

FATHER SKY best effort last time when he won the 3.40 Sandall Beat Novices Handicap Chase. He is a good horse and should be in the money.

#### 4.10 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (7,508; 2m 110yd) (18 runners)

1-18: 4.10 Weatherbys Stars of Tomorrow Open National Hunt Flat Race. 2.35 Hurricane Lamp. 3.10 Puritan. 3.40 God Speed You. 4.10 My Buster.

BETTING: 7-2 Weatherbys. 2-1 Hurricane Lamp. 5-2 Puritan. 7-1 God Speed You. 8-1 My Buster.

#### FORM FOCUS

MR LURKAP best effort last time when he won the 4.10 Weatherbys Stars of Tomorrow Open National Hunt Flat Race. He is a good horse and should be in the money.

#### COURSE SPECIALISTS

1.00 Selby Conditional Jockeys Novices Handicap Hurdle. 2.35 Hurricane Lamp. 3.10 Puritan. 3.40 God Speed You. 4.10 My Buster.

#### TRAINERS

1.00 Selby Conditional Jockeys Novices Handicap Hurdle. 2.35 Hurricane Lamp. 3.10 Puritan. 3.40 God Speed You. 4.10 My Buster.

#### Doncaster

1.00 Selby Conditional Jockeys Novices Handicap Hurdle. 2.35 Hurricane Lamp. 3.10 Puritan. 3.40 God Speed You. 4.10 My Buster.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

1.00 Selby Conditional Jockeys Novices Handicap Hurdle. 2.35 Hurricane Lamp. 3.10 Puritan. 3.40 God Speed You. 4.10 My Buster.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

1.00 Selby Conditional Jockeys Novices Handicap Hurdle. 2.35 Hurricane Lamp. 3.10 Puritan. 3.40 God Speed You. 4.10 My Buster.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

1.00 Selby Conditional Jockeys Novices Handicap Hurdle. 2.35 Hurricane Lamp. 3.10 Puritan. 3.40 God Speed You. 4.10 My Buster.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

1.00 Selby Conditional Jockeys Novices Handicap Hurdle. 2.35 Hurricane Lamp. 3.10 Puritan. 3.40 God Speed You. 4.10 My Buster.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS



Crystal clear conclusion after seeing two sides of Selhurst Park

Wimbledon remain the true princes at Palace

The thing about football, you see, is that it's not the new rock'n'roll. Which makes a nice change, anyway. Football is not the new rock'n'roll for one very important reason: its fans are not attracted, first and foremost, to chart success. Accidents of birth, geography and sheer bad luck determine a lifetime's blinkered devotion to a single team. Once it's done, it's done.

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming

Thus, there is no football equivalent to "My favourite group? Well, the Beach Boys haven't done much lately, so currently it's Placebo". Deserving the sinking ship of Brighton and Hove Albion and striding out for Arsenal, the guilt would be intolerable, the effort overwhelming. At the very least, you would have to stage your own disappearance on a lonely beach, take a new identity, and invent a whole, detailed history of Arsenal attendance reaching right back to the double in 1971.

So it's odd seeing Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. And even odder if you've happened to see the less successful but more popular Crystal Palace play there in the same week. When I booked a ticket for both matches over the phone, the box office couldn't understand it.



Empty gesture: Dean Holdsworth scores for Wimbledon on Tuesday evening watched by a sea of vacant seats

afternoon was a near punch-up between two Palace defenders, luckily unspotted by the ref.

For Tuesday night's Cup third round match between Wimbledon and Crewe, on the other hand, there were fewer than 5,000, and some of them clearly wished they'd plumped for the baked beans option instead. Relatively, the place was deserted, and it was hard to shake off the wrong-end-of-the-telescope sensation (where did everybody go?) that this was one of those surreal episodes of *The Avengers* concerning a whole football crowd that's been kidnapped, with Mrs Peel finding two or three in a smoky refrigerator, frozen in their scarves, with rattles still poignantly upraised in their fists.

Neither Selhurst Park match was inspiring, but it's worth noting that, with their big crowd, Palace lost 2-1, while Wimbledon (no one likes us, we don't care) won 2-0. Wimbledon now go on to play Manchester United twice in the same week, which is the big time with knobs on, but they still won't get the fans.

Cats factor is compounded by their own particular, amiable brand of piss-off-if-you-don't-like-it. The fans I talked to on Tuesday night were actually supporters of Manchester United, Chelsea and Nottingham Forest. They came because they could bring their sons for £50 a year, and see FA-Caring Premiership football. Which sounded fair enough.

Italy will dance to a different tune at Wembley

PATIENCE is a virtue, but it can be exaggerated. Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, diplomatically praised the Italy team for its "patience" after it had made heavy work of defeating a depleted Northern Ireland team in Palermo on Wednesday night.

However, as Gerry Armstrong, the Northern Ireland assistant manager and former World Cup centre forward, said: "We kept forcing them square rather than letting them come through. We made it very, very difficult. In the second half our back four pushed up and we got them offside an awful lot."

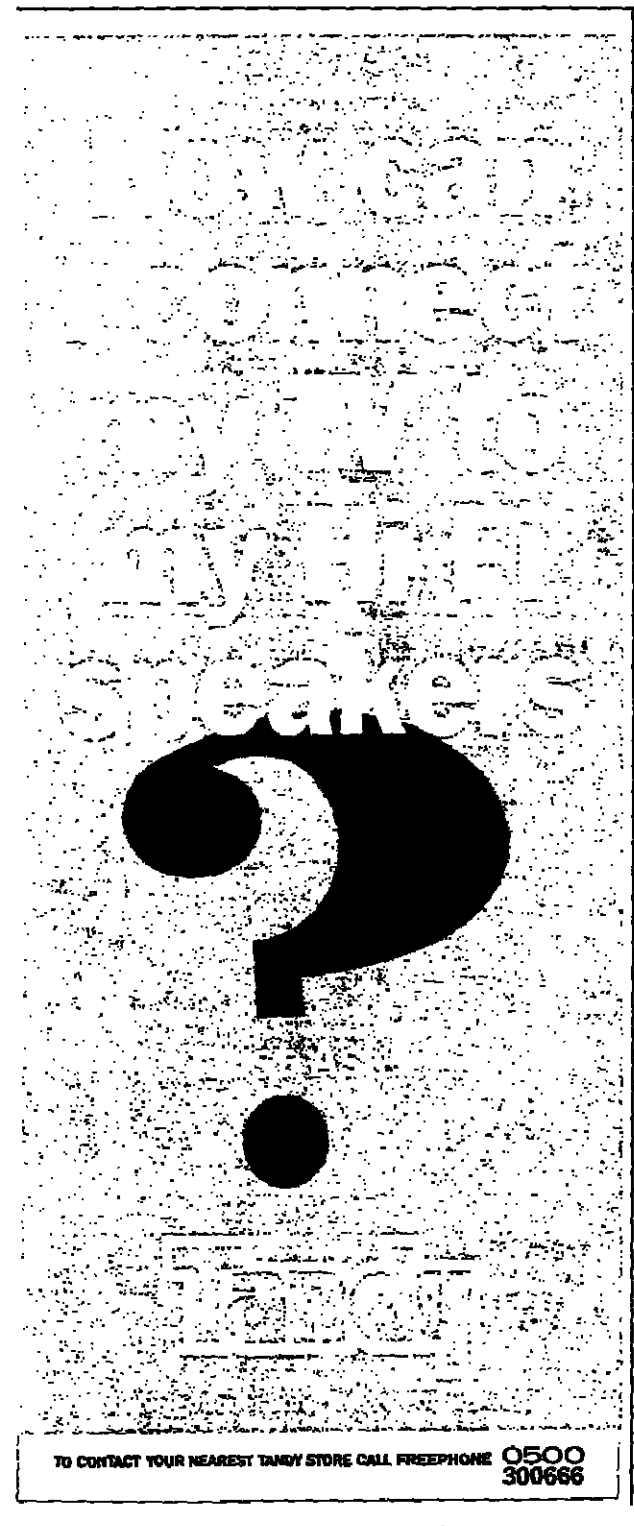
Brian Glanville finds England's opponents giving little away before World Cup qualifier

player, may have had a point when he said of Italy's midfield: "I think they're all the same. They play the same sort of game. How many times do they put crosses in?"

With the important England-Italy World Cup qualifying game next month in view, this was essentially a ploy war. That evening, Italy will not face a team massed in defence. As Steve Morrow, of Northern Ireland, said: "They attack very, very quickly. If England were attacking them quite a lot, that could prove a bit of a problem. I thought Zola was the pick of the bunch [Hoddle agreed with him]. He was very hard to mark. Very hard to pick up. He caused us a lot of problems when he dropped off."

For Cesare Maldini, 65, the new Italy manager, ten years in charge of the under-21 team and father of the celebrated Paolo — used as a central marker — it was almost an irrelevant beginning.

He, of course, abandoned Arrigo Sacchi's zonal defence, and its "pressing" but, with only Quinn up front for Northern Ireland, this, as he emphasised, was hardly a test for his sweeper defence, which will face an England attack led by Alan Shearer.



Clubs move in pursuit of Signori

FOUR FA Carling Premiership teams are reported to be trying to sign Giuseppe Signori, the Lazio player, claims that Newcastle United, Arsenal, Manchester United and Chelsea have all tried to tempt him to England.

Leaders prepare for decisive clash

A CROWD of 5,000 is expected at Broadhall Way tomorrow, drawn by what promises, even at this early stage of the season, to be the match that has a decisive bearing on the outcome of the Vauxhall Conference title race.

Non-League Football by Walter Gammie

and on the shortlist, has since asked to be released from his playing contract.

Answers from page 47

ADIPOUS (b) Abounding in or characterised by fat. Fat or fatty. Less technical than adipose. From the Latin *adiposus* through the French *adipex*.

A milestone at Ambridge

The Archers. Radio 4, 7.05pm.

I used to spend frenetic evenings sat alongside another executive of this very newspaper and there was a spell each night when I thought that either he had gone deaf or he was refusing to speak to me over some imagined slight. One night I opened a drawer and found in it a radio: a lead from the speaker led to the executive's left ear. He and other fans of *The Archers* will know already that tonight is the show's 12,000th edition. I fear that I am immune to its charms: having failed to recover from the loss of Walter Gaby, apparently tonight will be a landmark for David and Ruth Archer, whoever they might be.

Law in Action. Radio 4, 8.50pm.

Considering that Britain is run by a Parliament containing more lawyers than people from any other profession, it is odd that the broadcast media is stuffed with expertise on politics and politicians but finds scant time to explain what the laws they pass mean to us.

| RADIO 1  | WORLD SERVICE |
|--|---------------|
| <p>7.00am Simon Mayo and Kevin Greening<br/>12.00 Mary Anne Hobbs<br/>1.00pm Nelly Campbell<br/>1.30pm Pete Tong<br/>1.50pm Chris Evans<br/>2.00pm The Radio 1 Breakfast Show<br/>2.30pm The Radio 1 Lunch Show<br/>3.00pm The Radio 1 Afternoon Show<br/>3.30pm The Radio 1 Evening Show<br/>4.00pm The Radio 1 Night Show<br/>4.30pm The Radio 1 Late Night Show<br/>5.00pm The Radio 1 Late Night Show<br/>6.00am The Radio 1 Late Night Show<br/>6.30am The Radio 1 Late Night Show<br/>7.00am The Radio 1 Late Night Show<br/>7.30am The Radio 1 Late Night Show<br/>8.00am The Radio 1 Late Night Show<br/>8.30am The Radio 1 Late Night Show<br/>9.00am The Radio 1 Late Night Show<br/>9.30am The Radio 1 Late Night Show<br/>10.00am The Radio 1 Late Night Show<br/>10.30am The Radio 1 Late Night Show<br/>11.00am The Radio 1 Late Night Show<br/>11.30am The Radio 1 Late Night Show<br/>12.00am The Radio 1 Late Night Show<br/>12.30am The Radio 1 Late Night Show<br/>1.00am The Radio 1 Late Night Show<br/>1.30am 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# AMERICAN FOOTBALL 47

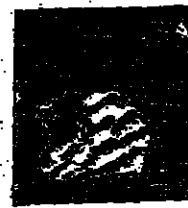
Green Bay take Southern comfort from Favre's arm

# SPORT

FRIDAY JANUARY 24 1997

## GOLF 48

Faldo's season opens with a rusty round



## Bowler shrugs off back injury

# Cork passes critical test for England

FROM ALAN LEE IN AUCKLAND

ENGLAND'S Test match prospects in New Zealand were immeasurably improved yesterday when Dominic Cork charged through a demanding net session as if several days of drama and depression over the state of his back had been nothing but a ploy to deceive the opposition.

Until Wednesday, not even his own team-mates believed that Cork had any chance of recovering to play in the first Test, which began this morning at Eden Park, after breaking down while bowling at Hamilton on Sunday. However, after two extensive spells of net bowling, much of it at full pace, he said: "I am in no doubt that I'm fully fit and up for selection."

David Lloyd, the team coach, pointed out that the inclusion of Cork could not be guaranteed until any overnight deterioration was assessed, although he added: "I'm not really expecting him to get a reaction and I anticipate he will be fully fit."

This development was not only encouraging for England, but also it was remarkable, given the degree of pessimism emanating from Wayne Morton, the physiotherapist, in the 24 hours that followed the injury. The breakthrough came when it was diagnosed that Cork had not suffered a muscle tear and that the damage, to a facet joint in the lower spine, could be cured relatively swiftly by massage and manipulation.

It will have come as a blow to New Zealand, who had begun to fancy the chances of their own seam and swing bowlers against an England without Cork. Lee Gernon, their captain, had said only yesterday: "Cork is one of their key players. If we don't come across him in this game, we won't be disappointed."

One man not surprised to find Cork in the team, however, was Ian Botham. England's recently-appointed bowling consultant. He made a brief appearance at net practice after arriving from

Australia, where he had once again been quoted making untimely claims on Lloyd's job. Botham's only surprise was that Cork was a subject of discussion — he was so out of touch with the team that he knew nothing of his injury.

Lloyd himself grinned hugely when asked if he was surprised by Cork's recovery. "I am a born optimist," he said, "so I always expected him to play." Nevertheless, the relief in Lloyd's expression was plain, not least because

John Barclay, the England tour manager, will have special responsibility for developing young talent as part of his duties on the newly-formed England Management Advisory Committee. Barclay will chair the development of excellence sub-committee.

The conditions prevailing at Eden Park yesterday would have suited few bowlers in the world better than Cork. The pitch, repeatedly watered over recent days, had lost some of its greenness, but remained conspicuously damp as the sun refused to make its forecast appearance. Ray Moffett, the groundsman, while making confident noises about the enduring qualities of his newly-laid strip, said: "I was banking on a few hours of



Atherton: peace talks

sunshine. If it stays as cloudy as this tomorrow, the first few hours will be interesting — my life, they will."

Steve Rixon, New Zealand's Australian-born coach, was among those convinced that this match will produce a positive result. "I am pretty confident there will be a result, whichever way it goes," he said. "Unless the pitch changes dramatically, the bowlers will dominate."

The coaches and captains had their usual pre-match meeting with the match referee yesterday and, for Michael Atherton, it was a reunion with unhappy memories. The referee throughout this series is Peter Burge, the Australian whose last contact with Atherton was when imposing an extraordinary fine upon him for alleged dissent at the Oval in 1994.

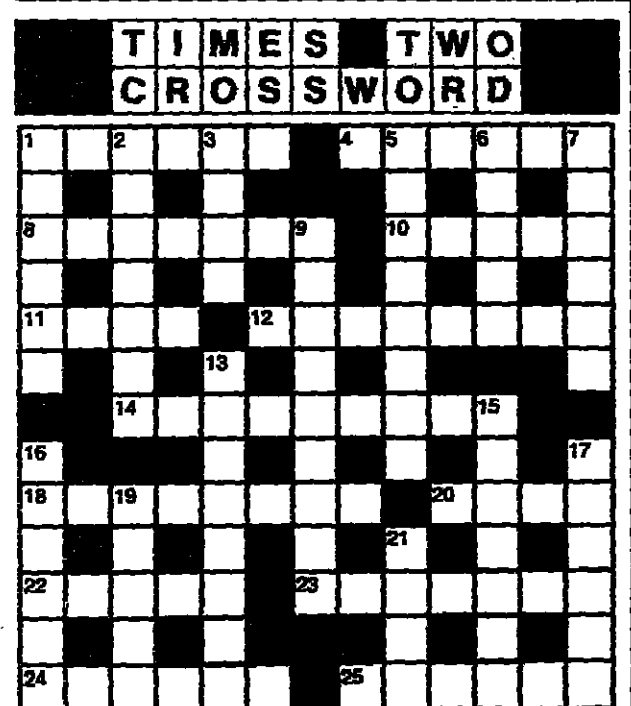
It was earlier in that same series that Atherton became embroiled in a scandal that might easily have driven him from the captaincy, the notorious "dirt in pocket" affair. His only offence during that sorry episode was to deceive Burge at a hearing, for which he was heavily fined by Raymond Illingworth, then the chairman of selectors, but the damage was done to his reputation and to his relationship with Burge.

The two have been busily burying hatchets this week and Burge said yesterday: "I have no problem with Michael Atherton and I have told him so. I have the utmost respect for him, because he has one of the things Australians like in a cricketer, a bit of ticker. I understand he has needed it lately."

NEW ZEALAND (probables): L K Gernon (captain), B A Young, B A Pocock, A C Pearce, S P Fleming, N J Astle, C L Cairns, J C Vaughan, D N Patel, S B Doull, D K Morrison.

ENGLAND (from): M A Atherton (captain), N V Knight, A J Stewart, N Hussain, G P Thorpe, J P Crawley, C White, R D B Croft, D Gough, C E Smith, S A D Malley, P C H Tunnell, D G Cork.

Umpires: S Durrant (New Zealand) and S Bucknor (West Indies). Match referee: P Burge (Australia).



No 999

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|------------------------------------|--|
| ACROSS                             | DOWN                                     |
| 1 Take casual interest (in) (6)    | 1 Cease (from) (6)                       |
| 4 Salford (4,2)                    | 2 Landowner's steward (7)                |
| 8 Rowdy party (7)                  | 3 Simple board game (4)                  |
| 10 Inquiry; search (5)             | 5 Stress (8)                             |
| 11 Leap; rubbish-bin (4)           | 6 Edwin — (Dickens) (5)                  |
| 12 Raider (9)                      | 7 What gets lost in translation (11) (8) |
| 14 Abandoned baby (9)              | 9 Where soldier may be under arrest (9)  |
| 18 Test (of egg actor for job) (8) | 13 Patron (of shop) (8)                  |
| 20 Cross-dressed pantomime (4)     | 15 Frightful pallid (7)                  |
| 22 Energy; phase of water (5)      | 16 Serried (ranks) (6)                   |
| 23 Citizen army (7)                | 17 Vichy Marshal (6)                     |
| 24 Modest; coy (6)                 | 19 Night-time fantasy (5)                |
| 25 Coloured pencil (6)             | 21 Indistinct view (4)                   |

The solution to 998 will be published on Wednesday January 29.

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